FORTEAN TIMES

Christ's Face at Shamokin 33

New finds in archeology.... 3
More on Feral Children 5
Berserk axe murders 7
Mutants and freaks 9
Tom Bearden on Cattle Mutilations and Psychotronic Warfare 14
Review Supplement 21
Mystery Images 36
Glowing Cross 40
More on UK mystery Cats 42
Microwave menaces 45
Falls of webs, nuts, and grass 48

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FORTEAN TIMES

A Contemporary Record of Strange Phenomena

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FORTEAN TIMES is a non profitmaking quarterly miscellany of news, notes and references on current and historical strange phenomena, related subjects and philosophies. Formerly 'The News'. Affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO), and the Society for the Investigation of The Unknown (SITU), and other Fortean journals in continuing the work of Charles Fort (1874-1932).

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FT26, SUMMER 1978

Projects

Your editor's article, last issue, about the great Fortean computer project erred on the side of enthusiasm in some respects. It seems that the great amount of groundwork that must be done is ill-suited to a committee-type administration, and apologies are offered for giving the impression that a team has been assembled, or will be assembled in future. The work will continue as it has done to date, most efficiently on a private, small and personal level until the parties involved decide on another approach. In the article your editor was partly trying to plead the case for computer-assisted filing and indexing of Fortean data, and partly trying to locate any UK Forteans with computer experience, with whom he could chew over some preliminary ideas and perhaps alleviate his abysmal ignorance in these matters. It's going to take longer than I imagined, but I'm undaunted - the goal and the material demand that we get matters right, and in the right order.

Our other projects continue apace. The Fortean Picture Library has acquired the Doc Shiels Nessie pictures, and some sales are lining up. As soon as our descriptive material is printed up we'll be trying to acquire much more.

Plans are already in motion for the launching, next year, of a special series of 'Occasional Papers' in Fortean subjects, under the general editorship of our able friend and scholar Steve Moore. They will cover all manner of Forteana and related material, and range from wholly new papers of detailed research, to reprinted reference material sorely needed but long out-of-print or otherwise unobtainable. Some titles will be announced early next year.

TRUSS FUND...

...in which we acknowledge the generous donations of the following: Richard King, Ray Manners, SN Morgan, Keith Raison, Dwight Whalen - and the member of the Three-legged Toad Cabal (who wishes to remain anonymous) who has enabled Ion Will, Steve Moore and your editor to attend this year's Fortfest in Washington. Many thanks !

cont on p50...

A fairly random round-up of some of the curiosities swelling the file...first some interesting finds...

Remains of hitherto unknown temple beside the great Artemis Temple, at Ephesus, Turkey, dating to 6-700BC. Bombay Sunday Standard 18 Sept 1977 (Cr: Ion Will.) A temple of King Ptolemy VI, who ruled Egypt from 181-145BC, discovered at Luxor in Upper Egypt, and inside a temple to the Goddess Mot. A number of other relics, including 2 statues of Rameses III (1193-1166BC). Calcutta Statesman 5 Oct 1977 (Cr: Ion Will.)

A life-size statue of the Roman goddess Minerva, in terracotta, regarded as one of the most important finds in recent years, was dug out, with fragments of 50 broken statues, of a cave in the region known as the Sacred City of Lavinium, 18 miles south of Rome, and just a few 100yds from the tomb of Aeneas, who fled from Troy to Carthage and whose ancestors, legend has it, founded Rome. St Louis Globe-Democrat 25 Nov 1977 (Cr: Lou Farish.) An intact head of the goddess Athena, in marble, found at Beit Shean, the first of its kind to be found in Israel. It is a helmeted design, copied from the Greek model, dating to 2nd C, and was part of a statue 3 meters high. NY Herald Tribune 6 Jan 1978 (Cr: Ion Will.) A mystery find of a statue of a bare-breasted woman wearing pearls, thought to be Indonesian, was found by workers on 27 Jan in a false ceiling during demolition of a house in Bracknell, formerly used as the offices of a German pharmaceutical chemist. The antique figure, 7½" high and made of ivory, has baffled the police in their attempts to find out how it got there...they think it might be part of an antique robbery ...but we remember the Chinese seals found in Ireland! Reading Evening Post 1 Feb 1978.

An oldie but unrecorded here - the tomb of a pair of giants was found by Soviet archeologists in the northern Caucasus, and may date back 5000yrs. The tomb is made from highly polished slabs of volcanic rock each weighing up to a ton, and was furnished in gold, with household articles and gold ornaments. The male and female occupants measured 7ft 2" tall. Voice of the Nation (Bangkok) 29 March 1976, Pretoria News 31 March 1976 (Cr: I Will, C Holtzhausen.) An ancient smelting furnace, and an intact temple complete with tower, found at Mokhrablur Hill excavations, Ararat Valley, in south Caucasus, provides wealth of new knowledge about early civilisation there. Soviet Union no335, 1978 (Cr: I Will.) Clay and stone chess pieces, some with carved faces were found in a stone-age settlement at Gadyme-Depe, Soviet Turkmenia. They date back 8000yrs. Herald Tribune 13 July 1978 (Cr: Ion Will.)

A tomb containing a 700yr-old male was uncovered in Kiangsu province, China London Evening Standard 13 Sept 1977 (Cr: Ian Lawes.) We wonder if this is an erroneous account of the 2100yr-old tomb, containing 1000 burial objects, unearthed in Kwangsi, told of in the Guardian 16 Aug 1977. A stone-age site, dated back 10,000yrs, found on bank of Heilung river in northeastern Heilungkiang province, China. London Evening Standard 26 Jan 1978. 40 tombs dating back 2000yrs, found in eastern Sinkiang province. It is apparantly the cemetary of a rich family from the Warring States period, and contains meat offerings and many relics. Daily Telegraph 5 June 1978.

Rare copper plates engraved with the edicts of the 4th Buddhist Council held in Kashmir in the 2nd C, found 65km SW of Srinagar. The plates bearing 6.6 million words were buried under stone "which cannot be found outside Egypt" says Kashmir archeologist Mohammad Amin. Amrita Bazar (Calcutta) 9 Oct 1977 (Cr: Ion Will.) A tomb filled with artifacts dating to 350-320BC has been claimed "without a doubt that this is King Philip's tomb." The remains of a man in a solid gold chest, and 5 carved ivory

busts of Philip, his wife Olympiada, and his son Alexander the Great, prove this is the tomb of Philip of Macedon, claims Manolis Andronikos of Salonica University, Greece, who organised the excavations deep below a narrow street in the village of Virgina. The chest was in a marble sarcophagus in a chamber said to be the first Macedonian tomb found intact, and containing priceless relics, carvings, gold armor and weapons. St Louis Globe-Democrat 25 Nov 1977 (Cr: Lou Farish.)

Electricity company workers digging below the busy streets near Mexico City's main square, on the site of the ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, struck solid rock - it proves to be a 20 ton ceremonial monolith, elaborately carved with the image of Coyolxauhqui, the Aztec moon goddess. Hailed as the find of 2 centuries almost unanimously by all Mexican archeologists, it has led to the extraordinary call from top archeologists to level all the buildings in the square to allow the whole site to be exposed. Claudia Jongaitud voiced the opinion of many: "What's underneath means more to Mexicans than what's above," which includes the catnedral, national palace and post office. Inscriptions on the stone give information about the Aztec religious beliefs destroyed by the Spanish conquest. The stone dates from 1480 and was part of the great pyramid to the sun god, destroyed by the Spaniads in 1521. The stone is also thought to contain a tomb. Guardian 28 Feb 1978, London Evening News 13 March, Dallas Times Herald 15 March, Daily Telegraph 5 June 1978 (Cr: Phil Ledger, Tom Adams.)

A new policy on archeology by the Saudi Arabia government has invited solutions to the 'Mystery of the Rings,' enigmatic circular stone-wall formations found scattered in remote areas on hilltops as well as in valleys. The 1-2ft high walls form circles of 5-100yds in diameter, and have been likened to the Nazca formations, and cluster in an area 30 miles north of Jedda. As part of a programme "to learn more about the country's ancient history", the Saudis plan to publish an archeological journal, establish museums, and tackle other mysteries, and shed new light on the ancient Romans, Nabataeans, Lihyanites, and the Queen of Sheba's Sabaeans. Minneapolis Star 29 Dec 1977, Arkansas Gazette 1 Jan 1978, St Louis Post-Dispatch 3 Jan 1978 (Cr: Lou Farish, Mark Hall.)

Traces of an ancient civilisation pre-dating by 3 centuries the fabulous finds of the cities at Harappa and Moenjodaro in the Indus valley, have excited archeologists in Pakistan. Pictographs on pottery and other relics indicate that written language was in use in the area well over 5000yrs ago. The site, at Rehman Dheri, in the North West Frontier province, some 200 miles south of Peshawar, is being excavated by Peshawar University. The National Echo (Malaysia) 10 Aug 1977 (Cr: Ion Will.) US archeologists using electronic detection equipment have located evidence of a lost city beneath the sands of the Nile delta. Pottery fragments and coins date the site to 400BC. London Evening Standard.

VON DANIKEN BARGIN BASEMENT

200 natural caves in Mexico's Baja California region have been discovered bearing strange drawings, in reds, yellows and blues...and among more recognizable representations of animals are unidentifiable "devices" and strange creatures. In a curious reversal of the usual roles, it is Mexico's minister of tourism, and not a journalist, who is waving the flag for ET intervention. Guillermo Rossell de la Lama says: "You get the impression the devices may be spaceships or a helicopter...You must think they are from outer space." Some drawings are "three dimensional" and stretch "up to 24ft off the ground." Harry Crosby, a Californian journalist and archeologist, who has studied the caves since 1967, said they "had been known to Western man since Jesuit missionaries visited the area in the 1700s. A Frenchman 'rediscovered' them in the 1890s, and they were even mentioned in a book on Baja by the late Erle Stanley Gardner." Crosby added: "It is certainly one of the world's major group of aboriginal cavepaintings...but (de la Lama) is trying to make a romance. The style is highly realistic, with certain artistic conventions suggesting they are the work of a single culture. The size of the paintings clearly point to the use of scaffolding or ladders. Hartlepool Mail 19 April, Phoenix Gazette (Az) 20 April 1977 (Cr: Paul Screeton, Mark Hall.)

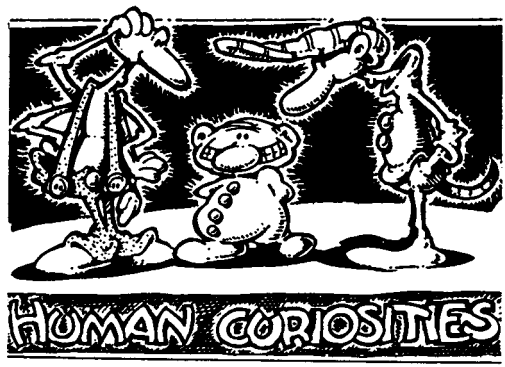
Three large mysterious discs, each "exactly 1.4 meters in diameter, 46cm high at the center, and perfectly circular", were found in an open-cast coal mine at Leigh Creek, South Australia. At first they were thought to be fossil sea shells, but an Adelaide marine expert, Michael Lawrie, said: "I've never seen anything like these objects. They appear to be rusty on the outer casing

and are believed to be millions of years old. One thing is certain - they are not fossilised shells." Shirley Kemp, of the Australian UFO Research Society, said the discs, one of which is broken, could be the find of the century. "Scientists believe the coalfield was burned out by a blazing meteor thousands of years ago. But aboriginal folklore tells of a giant craft that came from the heavens many years ago and landed in the area. Then the men on board lit a huge fire to signal their arrival." Anyone heard any more about this intriguing story? New Zealand Herald 25 June, Sunday Express 26 June 1977 (Cr: Mrs PD Dixon, Ann Williams, Valerie Martin.)

AND SPEAKING OF ABOS...

The 'Rainbow Serpent' rides again... it seems that the Western gift of dispossession, demoralisation, alcoholism, handouts, disease, and even ruthless extinction of whole tribes, is about to take an unexpected and grim turn for the worse. It was not until as shamefully late as 1976 that the Australian government awarded their aborigines the rights to their tribal lands, but all kinds of strings were attached that now look like being pulled. East of Darwin, between the South and East Alligator Rivers lies an undisturbed land of alligator swamps, wild buffalo and waterfalls, which was seen as fairly useless and so generously handed back to the original incumbents. For the 1000 or so Abos there it is the landscape of their "dreamtime heroes". Now it seems they are to be cheated once again, like abos everywhere, as gold and a lode of uranium has been discovered there. In the smallprint of the legislation the government can sell off mining rights to whomever and whenever they please. So far the Abos' committees have successfully delayed any attempt to disturb the resting place of the 'Rainbow Serpent'...but when up against callous government and big business how long can they hold out. Somehow they must, and must be given support and encouragement. Our hearts go out to them. London Evening Standard 4 June 1978.

Similarly, millions of tons of coal have been found below the Crow Indian reservation in Montana. As the pressure on the US for energy conservation increases, the value of this powersource in their backyard is incalculable, and you can understand the pressure in turn on the 'Crow Coal Authority', who not only wish to avoid being cheated all over again, but have no wish to see their hard-won homelands scarred by pits and black-slag heaps. Understandably they want a fair price on today's values, and control of the exploitation - but every underhand trick in the legal and economic book will inevitably be brought into play by the 'government' "for the greater good." Our hearts go out to the Crow too - unfortunately they must be ever vigilant. London Evening Standard 30 May 1978. RJMR



Further to our section on feral children last issue (FT25pp8-10), we have a few additions to make with new data to hand.

BEAR BOY

Firstly our account of the boy was badly told; and the source Universe, is not Indian, but the well-known (to all but me!) Catholic newspaper printed in London; so we'll start again. The boy, aged about 8yrs, was brought to the Sisters of Charity in Lucknow by a priest of a nearby region, Father Michael John, who had kept him for a few days after discovering the boy in a cage in the village of Sultanpur. It seems that a year earlier, a hunter from the village was following bear tracks, and came upon the boy in the cave. Once back at the village, the caged boy was fed on berries, roots and snails. The nuns claim that already they have weaned him onto curry and rice after refusing their food for a while. Sister Antonia, in charge of him, said: "He certainly doesn't talk like a human being, but only mews to show when he is pleased. A doctor said: "All his gestures are those of an animal. But he can learn to walk on his feet and be taught to speak. But we don't want to rush things. The check-up showed he lived like an animal and survived on whatever the mother-bear brought him. Police were trying to trace the boy's parents in the villages around Sultanpur. Additional sources: News of the

World 14 May, Daily Express 18 April, Pretoria News (South Africa) 21 April 1978 (Cr: Colin Mather, Paul Screeton, Chris Holtzhausen.)

FERAL GIRL - SUMATRA

More often than not, feral children are reckoned to have been abandoned because they were physically deformed or mentally retarded. The following story offers an interesting alternative in this one case. Two rattan harvesters, in the seemingly inhospitable dense rain forest of Aceh, in northern Sumatra, suddenly came upon a girl in the jungle, and took her back to Beutong village at the jungle's edge. She was aged about 27, completely naked, her hair long and matted, her teeth yellow with neglect and her skin scaly and covered with scabs. It was not too hard to discover where she had come from as many villagers remembered the story of a 13yr-old girl called Rusdah who ran off into the jungle after her parents' greed ruined her chance of a happy marriage. The girl was sent to stay with an uncle because her parents were too embarrassed to have her back. Rusdah wanted to marry a local boy she loved, but her father regretted his consent and upped the dowry. Unable to meet the new demands the boy's family called the marriage off. Fearing the girl would elope, her father tied her to a post. Her cries filled the village with pity and a sister helped her escape into the jungle. A search party called off their unsuccessful week's search, and that was the last anyone heard of Rusdah - openly.

In her uncle's home, Rusdah has gradually readjusted to the food, clothes, and ways she left behind her 14 years ago - and has relearned her dialect enough to confirm the story of her disappearance - and here it gets interesting for me. She tells a story of strange friendly beings and animals who brought her consolation and relief from lonliness in her long exile. Apparently tigers and elephants had become her friends, and she never feared the wild animals in her jungle. She says she met about a 100 mysterious people, who came from time to time to see if she was all right. She added that she survived on rice brought to her regularly by some mysterious being she never saw - that and whatever the jungle provided. Nothing is said about whether her parents had set their grudge aside, or whatever happened to the boy she wanted to marry. South China Morning Post 8 Jan 1978 (Cr: Colin Johnson.)

SIBERIAN WILDMAN

A widely reported Tass release gave details of a wildman that roamed the Yakutia region of Verkhoyansk, about 400 miles north of Yakutsk city - but a bit belatedly it seems; since the last known sighting was in the 1950s, it was feared the breed had died out. Almost universally billed as 'Yetski' or Russia's answer to Bigfoot and the Abominable Snowman, Dr Semyon Nikolaev, of the Institute of Language, Literature and History, in the Yakut Branch of the Academy of Sciences, saw it more in terms of a survival from the earliest inhabitants of the region, possibly the last survivor of a remnant group of the aboriginal population, ousted from the more habitable areas by the ancestors of the present occupiers. Supporting this notion, he says, is that the name for the creature, 'Chuchunaa', also means 'fugitive' or 'outcast' in the Yakut dialect. Witnesses say the being reaches 6ft 6inches high, thin, with long arms to below the knees; its face looks human, but darker, and has a low protruding forehead; its chin is big and broad, and it runs in quick leaps. It has shaggy hair, and has a tendancy to shrill shrieks. It favours the dawn or late evenings for sneaking up to dwellings and stealing anything edible. Interestingly, this release came not long after details of the monster sighting at Lake Kok Kol (yet to be given in FT), and investigations by Soviet scientists into the Bermuda Triangle - are Soviet scientists becoming more interested in Fortean phenomena, or is it a cover for more political oneupmanship? Guardian, Worthington Globe (Minneapolis, Calgory Herald (Alberta), Sacramento Bee (Calif.), San Francisco Chronicle (Cal.) all 4 Feb 1978; South China Morning Post, International Herald Tribune, The Herald (New Zealand) all 6 Feb 1978; Nature 271:603 (Cr: Peter Roberts, Mark Hall, John Chalke, Dr EC Krupp, Colin Johnson, Ion Will, Mrs PD Dixon, Kurt Lothmann, D Robbins).

RJMR

Axemen/ cont from p8

was to terrorize the smaller gang and the Wo Shing Wo men left a number of shocked and wounded victims, including a man out back with his hand nearly severed. RJMR

*** Next time we run this column, we'll have a more palatable derangement or two, like hat-snatchers, skirt-slashers, spectacle-swipers, pin-jabbers, and folks who hide out in car boots!

Compulsions - our new file - covers the gamut of strange behaviour from vampirism (of which we have much) to the berserk killers; the weak souls drowning in floods of terrible urges, the mad cultists, the desperate...Sometimes it seems spontaneous:

When a loony's gotta do
What the Voices tell him to;

but if you look through the file, very often there are clumpings. Consider: within 3 weeks of mid-June this year there were 3 self-immolations of the 'human torch' kind (we'll detail them in our next 'Fires' section). What do we mean by 'spontaneous' when we're ignorant of the myriad currents flowing through any given nexus in time or space? All we can do is chart the phenomena and learn the patterns... Some events seem part of no pattern - like the man who called at a service station in Missouri, about 10am on 25 Aug last year, demanded $5's worth of small change, walked over to the water fountain, and gulped the money down with mouthfuls of water, then said 'Thank you," as he left. St Louis Post-Dispatch 26 Aug 1977 (Cr: J Peldyak, MJ Kautzman) - and others...well, we have so many accounts of berserkers - it's an affliction that fattens files - so for this first sampler we'll look at mad hacksmiths.

BURYING THE HATCHET

15 Nov 1975 - a Chinese woman goes berserk in an unexplained incident in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts, killing 2 young boys and seriously injuring 2 others in a house shared by 2 Chinese families - the children's parents were out working. Sunday Post 16 Nov 1975.

10 Jan 1976 - things get too much for author Kudno Mojesic. He was arrested in the street outside his Belgrade, Yugoslavia home, attacking cars with an axe, yelling: "Away with all cars - they are the Devil's work." Sunday Mirror 11 Jan 1976.

22 June 1976 - pedestrians in central Johannesburg scream and flee wildly as an unnamed African strolled through the crowd chopping at random. He hacked 4 whites before he was shot twice by a policeman. At the policestation, he managed to summon the energy to escape and jump from a 4th floor window - but he survived even this and was in hospital critically ill. An Indian flower-seller said: "The axeman didn't even run. He just walked along chopping out at whites and shouting that he was doing it for the children dying in Soweto." London Evening News 22 June 1976.

15 June 1977 - peaceful scene, a tug chugging down the River Thames. Suddenly a man with an axe goes bananas in the cabin below then charges up to the bridge and starts laying about him. The skipper and four crewmen jump overboard in terror, and for two miles the tug veered crazily as police launches followed it, warning all shipping to stay clear. Finally police boarded it and disarmed the man as he was trying to ram a fireboat at Greenwich. Daily Mirror 16 June 1977.

4 July 1977 - like a suicidal finish to a kung-fu film a young coloured youth ran along Rye Lane, Peckham slashing out with a knife in each fist. It was 10am - an elderly man died and 3 others were seriously wounded before he was cornered and disarmed by 2 policemen. One shopkeeper said: "The man was carrying 2 long-bladed knives, running up the street, shouting: 'I'm being treated as a slave in this country.' About 300yds from my shop he attacked an elderly man of about 70 who was walking along the pavement and stabbed him once in the stomach." I've a feeling that the US TV-film 'Roots' was showing about this time. London Evening News 4 July, The Sun & Daily Mirror 5 July 1977 (Cr: Anon.)

18 Sept 1977 - Richard Talmadge, in Peking with actor William Holden and actress Stephanie Powers as guests of the government, was suddenly attacked by a man with a knife, as he and Ms

Powers were strolling in a boulevard. It was said: "The reason for the attack was a mystery." A similar attack on an Australian woman teacher occurred "earlier this year", but we have no note of it. Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Daily Express 19 Sept 1977.

15 Nov 1977 - a man wielding a knife went berserk on a tube train between Bayswater and Earls Court, London. Two girls were treated for cuts, bruises, and shock - the man got away. London Evening News 15 Nov 1977.

Now we come to an interesting grouping. On 12 June, David Berkowitz was sentenced to 315 years for his 6 murders and 7 woundings. There is much that is interesting about his case, not the least being the complusive voices ordering him to commit these acts, which, according to Beserkowitz himself came from 'Sam' a millennia-old demon currently inhabiting the body of a neighbour's dog. After blessed absence of axemen in the first half of the year, it seemed as if the sentencing of 'Son of Sam' unloosed living nightmare, preceded by this little but grim joke:

10 June 1978 - a man brandishing a chain saw sent a screaming audience into utter panic as he charged through a packed cinema in Toronto - the 'Texas Chainsaw Massacre' was showing. Guardian 12 June 1978 (Cr: Paul Screeton.)

27 June 1978 - without warning, a "hefty, crazed" Russian went berserk with an axe at the entrance of Moscow's Intourist Hotel, killing 2 elderly Swedish tourists, and injuring a third. It is said that suddenly he "flung" himself at a group as they left the hotel and began hacking wildly at them. One reporter said that as police recovered from their shock and jumped him, there was blood and bits of flesh everywhere, one body beheaded and the axe still buried in the head of the other. Russia has publicly prided itself on not suffering the "senseless" crimes that plague the West, but as the Telegraph points out, the preceding month saw a public shoot-out between police and a hijacker who had seized Finnish hostages...and a prison guard shot 3 KGB men. The Telegraph's columnist 'Peterborough' adds that in 1976 a 'Jack the Ripper' murdered 9 women dressed in red and carrying shopping bags - and in another case a mad axeman, posing as a gas-inspector, killed 7 before being arrested, in the meantime gas-inspectors were being assault ed. Neither case was reported in the Soviet Press at the time. Daily Telegraph 28 June 1978.

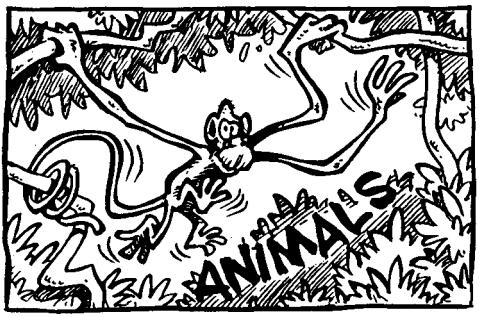
7 July 1978 - 2 men, believed to be alcoholics, were found hacked to death on an abandoned car lot in Brooklyn. A note beside them read: "Two down, and nine to go." London Evening Standard 7 July 1978.

7 July 1978 - in the quiet Somerset village of North Petherton, the afternoon was shattered when a man burst into a cottage. The occupant, village postmistress, Margaret Majors, fled but she was hacked at and killed from behind and fell among her roses. A second woman was hurt trying to rescue Mrs Majors. Then the man battered on the front door of a nearby cottage, and when the door opened hit a third woman on the head - the two women were recovering in hospital. A retired policeman, Nelson Bidgway, heard the screams and rushed to the scene. "I saw the man with an axe and shouted to him. He was demented. He dropped his head and charged at me like a bull. I picked up a broom and hit him in the face with it as hard as I could." The man dropped his axe and Bidgway tied him up. It seems the man had just been released from hospital after being found running in a road a fortnight previously wearing only his shirt. It was also revealed that the police had responded to a call to the man's house earlier that day when his sons took refuge with neighbours saying their father had gone berserk. Mrs Majors was one of the few people to befriend him in the village. The Sun 8 July 1978. NB: This incident took place on the same day as the double axe death in Brooklyn, above.

10 July 1978 - after a near collision on a Birmingham main road a man was taken to hospital after the other driver fractured his skull with an axe, then drove off. Daily Telegraph 11 July 1978.

13 July 1978 - an elderly woman in Bethnal Green, London, was seriously ill after she was attacked in her own home by a man with a meat cleaver, inexplicably. Despite serious facial injuries and a skull split in 2 places she crawled for help - her crippled brother was treated for shock. Daily Telegraph 14 July 1978. The same edition of the paper gives the verdict on 3 Chinese Wo Shing Wo Triad members who, together with 14 others all armed with razor-sharp knives, choppers and a sword, attacked members of the rival Shui Fong Triad in a Bayswater restaurant, earlier this year. The purpose

cont on p6



We blithely went ahead typing up this section on teratology and genetic hankypanky, and just a few days away from pasting-up found we hadn't asked our intrepid and loony artist, Hunt Emerson, for a suitable heading...so please bear with us for lumping this very mixed bag under one of his recent efforts, which has come in..er..handy!

The controversy over David Rorvik's book, alleging the successful cloning of a mysterious American millionaire, continues with the disclosure of an interview with Rorvik, back in 1970, in which he says he was writing a pornographic novel about cloning. As we type, Dr JD Broomhall, the Oxford geneticist, has begun his suit against Rorvik's publishers, JP Lippincott, claiming that Rorvik had tricked out of him a detailed description of the most advanced techniques of genetic engineering that he has pioneered, and consequently damaged his own reputation - see Sunday Times 23 April 1978 and other sources. That same month saw a story that the Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, in Houston, Texas, has a clone zoo on ice, with cells of 300 animals stored in liquid nitrogen against the day of perfected technique - Russellville, Ark, Daily Courier-Democrat 11 April 1978 (Cr: Tom Adams). The inevitable comic-relief (or bad taste, depending on your views) has been injected by a US national weekly offering a reward for the location and identification of Elvis Presley's clone! So much for privacy!

So we thought the time was as right as it ever would be to tip out our genetic freaks, sports and mutations file, and type some up before the little buggers scuttle for cover!

FEAR & LOATHING IN THE FOREST...

Michael King, a forestry worker at Drigg, Cumbria, told an astonishing story to the Daily Express 30 June 1978. In a clearing in the forest at Drigg, he stumbled upon giant spiders "very brightly coloured - blue, red and yellow", which spin webs "like steel. You could feel them pull tight against your body. You had to force your way through them. The spiders were over half an inch across their bodies." The area was formerly used as a dump for low-level radioactive waste from Windscale. King added there were "brambles the size of golf balls" (!) and that "All the vegetation was very lush and quick growing. I felt the whole area and its insect life was being mutated by the presence of radioactive waste." The nuclear complex at Windscale is currently at the center of much controversy about the future of the British energy programme (Did someone at the back cry "What programme?"?) - see recent issues of Undercurrents et al - and the sceptic in me nags that such a lurid story is not beyond the imagination, or motives, of the new breed of brilliant young journalists in the 'ecology' and 'radical technology' movements. But we wonder... King claims that he is "not against Windscale" nor a member of any environment pressure group, but he was "alarmed and worried by what I saw at Drigg.". A spokesman for British Nuclear Fuels admitted that waste was buried at Drigg, but dismissed King's claims as "ludicrous!" Beyond that single word pregnant with pomposity, there has been no news at all - not even an inquiry and a public reassurance - and I find that more disturbing than giant spiders in Cumbria.

... AND ON THE SEA BED.

In an earlier issue of FT, we mentioned briefly the reports of giant sponges found growing on and around barrels in an off-shore atomic waste graveyard, near San Francisco, California. Recently, the US Environmental Protection Agency decided to inspect the dumping ground, 3000ft down near the Farallon Islands, and found some containers had cracked, possibly on original impact, and others, with the giant sponge in residence, could have been cracked by the grip of the sponge itself. In an attempt to capture one of these 4ft tall new-comers - apparently they have never been seen in the area before - an oceanographer, Robert Dyer, was sent down in a minisub, but the wily vegetable or whatever it is proved too clever for him, eluding his mechanical grasp, slipping away appar-

ently to be "eaten by sharks." Despite Dyer's statement - "There is no reason to believe the sponge is a mutant", against which at least two of our clipsters had scrawled "Ha!" - the sponge was new to the area, or a new species altogether, and it's "snow-flake-like body" drew some interest. UPI 31 October 1977, South China Morning Post 23 April 1978 (Cr: Colin Johnson, Larry Arnold, Tom Adams.)

A VERY PECULIAR PROCESSION

The following mutant march-past, like the unfortunate sports themselves, is quite mixed-up...

Cats: A ginger stray has been found in Nottingham with 6 claws on each paw. Daily Mirror, Daily Telegraph 3 July 1978. Interestingly, there had been a correspondence on 6-toed cats just 5 months previously, in the letter column of the Daily Mirror. On 1 Feb, Jennifer Wellstead, of Penzance, Cornwall, asked if any others had a cat with 6 toes on each paw. On 15 Feb, Mrs 'I', of Kettering, Northants, pointed out that 6-toed cats were favored as the familiars of witches; and Mrs M Farley, of Havant, Hants, said she had 6 cats, 3 of them with 6 toes, and 2 with 4 toes on each foot in place of the 'normal' 5. A recent litter, she says, produced 1 with 7 toes, 4 with 6 and 2 normal toed cats. Must be more widespread than people had thought!

Another old note comes from the ever industrious burrowings, by Nigel Watson, in the backfiles of the Gainsborough News - in the edition for 4 April 1947, quoting from an earlier edition of the paper for 31 March 1922, is a mention of a cat that lived for only an hour after being born with 8 legs and 2 heads.

Chickens: Perhaps this should go under 'Coincidences'...SF Christian, of Cambridge, wrote to the Daily Mirror 8 June 1978, to say that for the past eight weeks she has bought the same brand of frozen chicken, and that 7 of the birds had two necks and no livers!

Make of that what you will, but Ivan Bunn, editor of Lantern, sends us an old note from the Lowestoft Journal 7 June 1890, saying that a 2-headed chicken with 4 wings, 4 legs and 2 bodies (being joined at the heads) was hatched out in the town the previous week, and was now on view at Mr Howard Bunn's, Naturalist, in the town's High Street. Another coincidence?

We have quite a few notes on 'green gulls' and multiple-yolked eggs etc but we'll keep these for a more detailed 'Bird Curiosities' section.

Crustaceans: Fishermen, at Montevideo, Uruguay, pulled some kind of "sea monster" out of the Rio De La Plata. It was fantailed, had a tortoise-like shell 6ft in diameter and huge fins, weighed about a ton, and was dying as it was brought ashore. Prof Victor Bertullo, of Uruguay's Institute of Fish Research, admitted the identification of the creature confounded him, as it "was not to be found in any book." St Louis Globe-Democrat 13 May 1978, South China Morning Post 13 May 1978 (Cr: William Zeiser, Colin Johnson.)

The photo below, from The News, Portsmouth, 25 April 1977, shows a three-clawed lobster, caught earlier that week by lobster fisherman Eric McLeod, who said he'd seen nothing like it during his nine years of fishing from Portsmouth's Camber Docks. Mr McLeod is the one wearing the pullover! (Cr: Nick Maloret.)

Cattle: In 1952, a 3-legged calf was born on Harry Barber's Scunthorpe farm, surviving well into adulthood. A photo of it appeared in the Scunthorpe Star 7 August 1954 (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

Another thriving calf, this time with 5 legs, was born on a farm near Oimer, Nova Bystrice, in Czechoslovakia. Lincoln Star, Nebraska, 19 Sept 1974 (Cr: Joe Swatek.)

Horned animals have a special fascination. If you'll bear with the inclusion here of an elk, we'll tell of a female elk found with male antlers, not unheard of but exceedingly rare, in the world's largest elk herd at the National Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyoming. Paris News, Texas, 17 Jan 1978 (Cr: Tom Adams.) The picture below, from The Times, Laredo, Texas, 15 Jan 1976, shows a unique one-horned steer, owned by George Magonical, of Lincoln, California, who crossed a Hereford with a shorthorn. The 7yr-old animal began with normal horns which were cut - then its singular protruberance sprouted. (Cr: Mark Hall.)

January this year saw several other cattle prodigies, as well as the elk (above). According to the Sunday Express 1 Jan 1978, thousands of people in northern Sri Lanka, were flocking to the village of Kanderodai to see a calf born with 2 heads and 3 eyes. (Cr: Paul Pinn). Later the same month a UPI release dated 30 Jan, tells of hundreds of Israelis trekking to the village of Zlafon, near Jerusalem, to see a calf born with 3 mouths, each with lips, teeth and a tongue. According to our day-log, another miracle of 3 happened about the same time, just across the river into Jordan - see the story of the icon of the BVM in our 'Images' section this issue. This calf story was clipped from International Herald Tribune 31 Jan 1978 (Cr: I Will).

Sheep: 2 notes of 2-headed lambs... One, born on the farm of HD Addey, Claythorpe, Alford, Lincs, had 2 heads and necks. Gainsborough News 24 April 1925. The other, again with 2 distinct heads was born with another lamb, on the farm of Ernest Heffield, Donington, Lincs. Lincoln Leader 1 May 1909 (Cr: both to Nigel Watson.)

More happy is the story of the 3-legged lamb, born with a twin from crossing a Masham ewe with a Suffolk ram on the farm of Frank Craggs, at Sedgefield, Co Durham - it appears to have skipped around with its friends none the worse for not having a leg to stand on. Darlington & Stockton Times 29 March 1975 (Cr: Paul Screeton.)

A rather back-to-front piggy is remembered in the Cornish & Devon Post 26 Oct 1974, from its edition of 22 Oct 1904; it had one tail in the usual place and another between its ears! (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

Heaven only knows how we classify the following monstrosity, still-born from a goat in southern India on 24 June. Villagers claimed the 2 kilo freak was half-human in form, with a human face and stunted legs and hands! South China Morning Post 27 June 1978 (Cr: Colin Johnson.) Which brings us to

Humans: Sextuplets born at Leyden University Hospital, Holland, on 18 Sept, Daily Telegraph 19 Sept 1977 (Cr: Valerie Martin). Japanese mother gives birth to 2 sets of twin boys in succession, London Evening Standard 7 Feb 1978 (Cr: Ion Will.) Unprecedented legel wrangle caused by the paternity suits of a West German mother, who apparently ovulated twice in one day having made love to a white German and a black American soldier on the same day. She gave birth to twins, one black and the other white! Daily Mirror 29 May , Sunday Times 30 April 1978. Three sets of triplets born in the same ward at Merritt Hospital, Oakland, California within 10 weeks, claimed as 3 in a million odds, International Herald Tribune 10 July 1978 (Cr: Ion Will).

Siamese twins have also featured in 1977 . Two girls, joined at the

torso sharing a pelvis and one pair of legs, but having separate spines, lungs hearts, heads etc, were separated in a drastic 10hr operation, on 23 June, at Children's Hospital, Washington, Miami Herald 9 July 1977. Another pair of girls were successfully separated at North Shore University Hospital, Long Island, on 26 Sept. In a 5hr operation 20 surgeons separated their livers and the 8½" tissue tube that linked their abdomens. Newport News, Va, Daily Press, and Daily Telegraph 29 Sept 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott, Valerie Martin). At the University of Arkansas Medical Center, a 3wk-old girl died during the operation to separate her from her twin with whom she shared a trunk, their hearts conjoined. The surviving twin was still critically ill a week later. They were born on 14 Sept at El Dorado. Newport News, Va, Daily Press 6,7,9 & 16 Oct 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott).

India seems to generate an unusual number of freaks -- An otherwise normal boy, aged 14, was found at Bastar, in Central India, with a 4½" tail, Omaha World Herald, Nebraska, 13 Jan 1969 (Cr: Joe Swatek). At King George Hospital, New Delhi, the lifeless foetus twin of an 11mth-old boy was removed from his abdomen in a 3hr operation, The Eagle, Texas, 14 Sept 1978 (Cr: Tom Adams). A baby consisting of an ill-formed double-trunk with 2 heads, 4 arms and 4 legs, died shortly after birth in the Government hospital at Nemara on 11 Dec. Amrita Bazar 12 Dec 1977 (Cr: Ion Will).

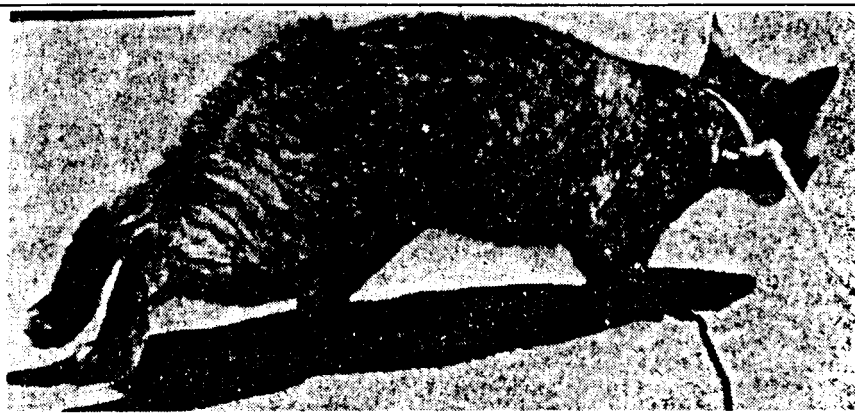
At Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, a baby boy was born with its heart throbbing away outside its chest. It was immediately rushed into a 2½hr operation to replace the heart inside the chest, on 31 Mar . Using techniques that improved upon a similar operation there, on 10 Aug 1975, doctors have paralyzed the baby for several days to prevent him opening the sutures in his chest. A note in the report said this condition had only been noted 200 times since the first recorded case in 1671. Florida Times-Union 2 April 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott). 13yr-old Doug Pitchard was astonished as the doctors to learn that he had a tooth growing in his foot. Dr Amor Bouraouie, of Lenoir, N Carolina, who removed it, said it was perfectly formed down to its roots. Dallas Morning News 22 Jan 1978, Moneysworth May 1978 (Cr: Tom Adams, Larry Arnold.)

Two remaining miscellaneous items of varying degrees of grimmo — A Coroner's raid on a "ghoulish" carnival sideshow at the Lake County Fair at Grayslake, Illinois, revealed that the exhibits labelled 'Cyclops', 'Froggirl' and 'Elephant-nosed Baby' etc, were not in fact made of plastic or rubber. The exhibitor, Chris Christ, was charged with the illegal disposition of bodies, and illegal possession of human remains. Santa Fe New Mexican 3 Aug 1977 (Cr: Tom Adams.) And more recently, from the Federal News Service of the Austrian Government announced a disturbing discovery: "...recent serial observation has shown that the shape of the head in the Austrian population is turning ever more into a round and spherical form." Scientific research, they add has been unable to ascertain the reason for this headchange! Guardian 18 May 1978 (Cr: Ion Will).

SOME CROSS-BREEDS

Mary Jackson was puzzled when, over a year, her guineapig had four litters - and the only other occupant of the hutch was a rabbit, who wasn't telling! Her claims that the rabbit had fathered the furry enigmas on the guineapig were swiftly scorned by experts at the Kessingland Wildlife Park - interspecies fertility, they roared, was "genetically impossible". They said that the first litter could be explained if Mrs Jackson, of Lowestoft, had bought the animal while it was pregnant; and the others might have been caused by one of the mother's own darlings, who, it seems, are quite prepared to keep certain things in the family! But it seems that Mrs Jackson may have given the litters away before they reached sexual maturity. The last we heard was that guineapig and rabbit were again closetted under the beady eyes of the experts who awaited further developments. Eastern Daily Press 8 Feb 1974 (Cr: RTA Hill). In our phenomenal universe pomposity precipitates many a good joke. While the experts of Kessingland peered through a hutch's keyhole, a 'bunny-pig' resulting from the mating of a rabbit and a guineapig was born at Knaresborough Zoo, Sun 5June 1974, just a few months later!

Another curious double phenomenon played out last year with the appearance in two places of a curiously formed cat whose hindquarters resembled that of a rabbit. The first account of the "cabbit" was its exhibition in Los Angeles by Val Chapman, who found it in New Mexico. The cabbit, claims Chapman, is the result of breeding a cat with a



rabbit - plainly impossible said Los Angeles Zoo-ologists. Judging from the photos in Dallas Morning News, Houston Chronicle, and Santa Fe New Mexican all of 11 July 1977, the animal looked more like it had a deformed pelvis forcing its legs out and back! (Cr: Tom Adams, Mark Hall.) The same term, cabbit, was being applied, just 2 months later, to the pet of Marian Pitcher, of Greenfield, Indiana. She too believed she had the product of a cat-rabbit mating. Zoo officials laughed when she rang to tell them of her cabbit purring at one end and hopping at the other. In contrast to the opinion of his colleagues, however, it seems that Dr David Osgood, prof of vertebrate anatomy at Butler University, Indianapolis, declared that it would not be impossible for a cat and rabbit to produce offspring, but "It's almost beyond comprehension for a biologist to imagine that it could happen." Hops and squirms - the motions respectively of cabbits and experts! San Angelo, Tx, Standard-Times 18 Sept 1977 (Cr: Tom Adams.) Several days later another cabbit turned up in Pennsylvania, owned by Harry Goodwin, of Lower Swatara Township...only he'd always thought the peculiar animal was a Manx cat (even the local vet didn't seem too sure what a Manx looked like!) Goodwin's cat had ears slightly larger than a domestic cat, and longer whiskers, but its rear end had rabbit-like legs and heavy mottled fur. Goodwin said he used to keep a tame rabbit and remembered that a cat used to "play around" with it. "Some people say there is no way a cat and a rabbit can cross," Goodwin said,"but I say look at it and be your own judge. It hops like a rabbit, looks like a rabbit, and has fur like a rabbit." Harrisburg, Pa, Patriot 15 July 1977 (Cr: Larry Arnold.)

Knaresborough Zoo also figures in a story of an alligator kept there alone for 7 yrs, which suddenly produced a handful of little ones - parthogenesis? Roger Broadie heard this on BBC radio sometime around the early part of Oct 1975, and we have nothing else on it.

Farmer Dick Lanyon, near Melbourne, Australia, put a billygoat among his sheep to scare off foxes during lambing. Now, he says, he has dozens of 'lambs', half-sheep half-goat, and more are arriving every day. Last we heard: scientists examining the new animals, and Billy is locked up doubtless wishing these situations were reversed. Daily Mirror 17 Sept 1969 (Cr: Anthony Smith.)

A tigress sharing a cage with a lion at a zoo in Osaka, Japan, gave birth to 3 cubs with tiger's heads and lion's body. Alas - 2 died and the remaining one very poorly, Sunday Telegraph 14 Sept 1975 (Cr: Peter Hope-Evans.)

At Prospect Park Zoo, New York, a donkey was pregnant by a zebra, Sun 26 Oct 1973 (Cr: Anthony Smith). Whether it was ever born or not, we have no record - but one was certainly born in Christmas week of 1975 at Colchester Zoo, the third foal successfully born of mating a donkey with different male zebras. Previous attempts at crossbreeding zebras with horses and donkeys had failed to produce surviving foals, let alone the hoped for disease-resistant work-horse for Africa. Colchester Zoo believe success lies with their use of an Arabian donkey (not tried before), and even hold out a hope that these hybrids might viably breed (normally hybrids are sterile). Sunday Express 11 April 1976, Weekend 30 June 1976 (Cr: Anthony Smith.)

RJMR

Species Metapsychology UFOs and Cattle Mutilations

by Tom Bearden

The following portion of a book by Marshal Grechko was deleted from its English translation, at the request of the Soviet Union: 'Of particular importance is basic research aimed at discovering still unknown attributes of matter for their study and use to reinforce the state's defense capabilities.'

FOREWORD

For some years it has been increasingly apparent that UFO phenomena can be explained as temporarily materialized archetypes from the collective human unconscious; archetypes which are overlaid, filtered, modulated, altered, and shaped by the shallower levels of unconsciousness above the collective species unconscious. These shallower layers must be traversed by the archetypal form on its way to physical materialization and conscious observation. A UFO event involves one or more archetypes which are triggered into full or partial materialization, but whose reality formats appearing in the final materialization are determined by the shallower layers of unconsciousness's 'plumbing' through which it passes.

E.g., it is well known in parapsychology that the personal unconscious of an individual can sometimes exert appreciable physical effects on the physical world; the poltergeist phenomenon is one direct example. Since the collective species unconscious is vastly more powerful than a single personal unconscious layer of itself, the effect it can exert on the physical world must be very powerful indeed. So from what we already know in parapsychology, it would appear possible for the collective unconscious to powerfully affect physical reality, even to the point of materializing thought forms into actual living existence, and possibly even to the point of materializing living beings. But since no physics to describe mind has existed, then no physical theory to describe such drastic interaction of the collective mind upon matter has existed.

However, the researcher has devoted considerable effort over the last 13 years to model mind and matter and the entire process of their interactions in terms of a new physics. Some success has been achieved, and within the last six years, a series of papers sketching out the model and the physics to describe it have been published.

But if this new model is valid, then one ought to be able to directly psychoanalyse the UFO phenomena and gain a deep insight, and the process should be very similar to dream interpretation routinely accomplished by psychotherapists. However, just as the 'dream popouts' from an individual's personal unconscious into his conscious awareness symbolically reveal the pressure and conflict within that personal unconscious, then the tulpoid materialization phenomena generated by the collective species unconscious should reveal the pressure and conflict within that collective species unconscious. So a **parapsychological extension of Jungian psychology is directly indicated. Were we a wiser and more enlightened nation, we would already have established and developed such a metapsychology/metapsychiatry to assist us in our dealings with other nations.**

At any rate, since none of the new metapsychologists/metapsychiatrists seem to have developed, then perhaps an amateur effort is warranted to indicate the new path, its direction, and its usefulness. This author – admittedly an amateur in psychology – has made such an effort, and this paper represents a brief condensation of the quite startling results obtained.

In preparing the reader for the drastic nature of those results, it must be emphasized that the major pressure exerted on the human species since WWII has been due to the conflict between the Western-aligned nations and the Soviet Bloc. So in the metapsychiatry of the collective species unconscious, the tulpoid materialization phenomena must directly exhibit strong symbolic aspects of this present 'cold war' mental and emotional conflict of the species as a dominating effect, and so in fact it does. In particular, each major UFO wave must be directly

connected with a peaking of the cold war pressure in the collective unconscious, and it is.

One of the most bizarre and unexpected aspects which emerges is a startling but quite specific explanation for the cattle mutilations that have occurred across the US in the last several years. Even more horrifyingly, a direct prediction is indicated from the analysis: That prediction is that the Soviet Union is preparing to attack the West and China in the near future, and the last metapsychiatric symptom or indicator to be expected prior to that attack is a series of paranormal mutilations of human females in the U.S. and perhaps in a few associated countries as well.

As these words are written, a candidate for the first such female mutilation may already have occurred near Boston, Massachusetts in May 1977. If indeed so, then the moment of truth for the West is imminent, and more such appalling cases are to appear in the immediate future.

In science, a researcher strives to remain unemotionally involved, unattached, and unbiased. But in any research directly involving human beings, there is always a point at which scientific detachment must yield to human consideration, and this metapsychiatric analysis is such a point, beyond all question, for this researcher. The pen, the heart, and the hand that write these words are deeply shaken. For the first time in 13 years of unrelenting effort, I fervently pray that my insights and analyses might be proved totally in error.

* *

There is a distinct possibility that this author may have solved the UFO phenomena, and in fact Fortean phenomena and paranormal phenomena of all types as well. The key, however, has been found in a most unexpected place: It is necessary to make a formal change (an addition) to Aristotle's three laws of logical thought, and then the solution can proceed. [1]. Further, it turns out that the entire matter can be fitted onto a perfectly good, albeit fantastically strange, physics written by Everett at Princeton University under John Wheeler in 1957. [2]. And that makes it totally consistent with the entire experimental basis of present physics.

From this approach, the solutions to the problem of mind and the classic mind/body problem emerge. A mind can be modelled as a physical 4-space which shares the same time dimension as the laboratory 4-space, but one whose 3-dimensional spatial frame is three or more orthogonal turns away from the laboratory 3-dimensional spatial frame, in n-dimensional space. I.e., in an infinite set of orthogonal 3-spaces which all share the same time dimension in common, all 3-space frames three or more orthoturns away from the lab 3-space are mindframes or mind worlds. In this model, a thought form is physically real, but just in a separate world three or more orthogonal rotations away from this physical world. The thought form is absolutely concrete in its own realm. This includes any thought form, whether of an inert object, a living biological system, or an abstract structure. Tulpas – thought forms which can under certain circumstances orthorotate several times and appear or 'materialize' in the ordinary laboratory 3-space – thus encompasses anything at all than can be thought – dragons, fairies, Sasquatches, Nessies, inert objects, ships, craft, Virgin Marys, demons, gods, angels, UFOS, monsters etc.

Now a tiny amount of crosstalk exists among all the orthogonal worlds sharing a common time axis. Further, the time 'axis' is really more of an oscillating wave [3], and from the laboratory observer's viewpoint, the other orthogonal worlds exist merely as a tiny, tiny jitter on his time-wave carrier. [4] I.e., these orthogonal realities are tiny modulations riding on the time dimensional carrier wave. Normally the magnitude of these modulations is so small as to fall below the quantum threshold of measurable/detectable change, so the orthogonal realities are virtual with respect to the laboratory observer.

However, if ordinary time coherence to one of the orthogonal forms is established in a large number of coherent stages in the laboratory frame, then the virtual phases for that coherent form increase (multiply) as an exponential function of the number of stages cohered [5]. If this is done for a sufficient number of stages, then the virtual coherent forms which are exponentially superposing reach and breach the quantum threshold, turning into observable change and 'materializing', i.e., quite automatic orthorotation back toward this physical frame ensues whenever sufficient multistaged coherence is established to a thought form in one of the orthogonal worlds. If there are sufficient tuning stages (these stages may be either mental or physical), the superposing form or tulpa rotates all the way back to the laboratory frame, and appears there in physically materialized reality.
If there is only sufficient tuning stages to rotate it to within one orthogonal turn away, that is the 'electromagnetic field' frame and the tulpa is seen as just a glowing light form. When the tuning starts becoming unstable, the tulpa starts turning away or dematerializing.

So all sorts of phenomena result: fairies (to a culture which soaks a belief in fairies down into enough unconsciousnesses) devils, imps, angels, godforms, sasquatches, skunkmen, Nessies, etc. In a previous dark age, when everyone believed in devils, occasionally one was met. When Satanic possession was widely believed in, it sometimes happened (this type of tuned reality is not quite yet vanished). The persons in the Dark Ages who feared witchcraft and demons had something behind their fears – they unconsciously were evoking the realities they feared. When the ancient Jewish tribes believed in a strong Father/King type of male god, one that was spiteful, vengeful, jealous, and which must be continually placated with sacrifice, pleading, and whining – then that is the type of god-figure they evoked. Similarly

with other religions and beliefs.

An example of a tulpa which is being tuned in more and more frequently is Nessie, the Loch Ness monster. The more intense interest there is, the more photos that are taken, and the more investigation that is done, the easier it is to find evidence of Nessie, because the additional infiltration of the material and the thought form into more and more unconsciousnesses provides more and more tuning stages, and tuning stabilization of a materialized tulpa is an exponential function of the number of tuning stages and the degree of coherence (sameness) attained by the stages. It appears that Nessie is on the way to being permanently tuned in; a family of pleisosaurs is going to wind up living in Loch Ness, whether or not there is enough fish in the loch to support them – the past will just be changed to accommodate it accordingly.

All possible realities exist and are concretely real, but are just normally compressed to the virtual state by successive orthogonal rotation away from the laboratory 3-space. From the number of 'states' of the future, one can be selectively 'tuned in' if enough coherent minds (or physical stages) are involved. Any future at all – even the wildest and most implausible and least possible – can be tuned in. And the tuning effect increases exponentially, not linearly, as a function of the number of tuners. [5].

The same mechanism is what causes or initiates the radioactive decay of a specific nucleus [6]. Thus the frequent association of geiger counter activity with Fortean phenomena or UFO phenomena. Further, rotation toward the laboratory frame causes the tulpa to pass first into and through the world frame that is just one turn away. That is the electromagnetic field when approaching the lab frame from one direction; it is a sort of 'negative electromagnetic field' when approaching the lab frame from the other direction. Coming in from one direction, one thus gets glowing light forms and electromagnetic radiation, and then finally the 'light object' solidifies into a three-dimensional physical object. Then as the turn away from the lab worldframe is made, the object first turns into glowing light (one turn away) and then disappears (two or more turns away). On the other hand, turning away from the lab worldframe in the other direction results in a 'dark object' or 'dark-ringed' object', then disappearance. Further, when a turn past the first orthoturn is being made, the 'light object' or 'dark object' generates DeBroglie waves (i.e., it is turning into pure DeBroglie waves). This DeBroglie wave backwards turning away from the electromagentic field frame (from the frame one orthoturn away from the laboratory worldframe) constitutes a 'wipe out' of the electromagnetic field, including the virtual photons that generate the actual charge of an electron flowing free in an electromagnetic circuit [*]. Hence the association of the phenomena with the conking out of electrical/electromagnetic equipment (auto lights, communications, etc) without really doing permanent damage – all that happens is that essentially the electrons flowing in the circuitry have their 'charge' directly dissolved, and magnetic fields get 'cancelled'. When the tulpoid rotates on through the second orthogonal turn, the effect is gone, electrons resume flowing in the circuits, magnetic fields resume, and everything is back to normal again.

The same effect is evidenced on the human body, where the 'current quenching' effect affects the electrical functioning of the nervous system. I.e., if one gets a little bit of the 'current quenching' effect, it is rather like a mild whiff of anaesthesia, and one has a very unreal, dreamy feeling, but is still conscious and still mobile. It one gets a heavier whiff, then one has a heavily unreal, hypnogogic feeling, and the single channel nervous functions are electrically disrupted (circuit currents blanked) so that the individual is paralysed (the single channel system is primarily the nervous system controlling the voluntary muscular system). Get a heavier dose yet, and the multichannel systems start to go – here consciousness is lost. The autonomic nervous system, however, is managing to function with difficulty, so the individual is still gaspingly breathing and his heart is still beating with difficulty. Get a stronger dose even yet, and everything blanks out electrically, and death ensues.

Since UFO phenomena are unconscious mental forms which are materializing to reality, one can directly 'psychoanalyse' the phenomena, if one is careful to add in the greater effects which are involved at the various levels of unconsciousness and pressing on them. So let us examine the phemenona from that aspect.

During World War II, Stalin laid plans to attack the West within about two years after the end of the war. He knew that, when the war was finished, the 'decadent capitalists' would immediately beat their swords into plowshares and disman and disarm, for they had always done so after each war. All he had to do was hold his forces ready and wait for this to occur, then take Europe in six weeks. However the advent of the atomic bomb frustrated this plan. He could no longer mass his forces, for American bombers loaded with atomic bombs could have simply obliterated them. Consequently, he had to change the plan and the time schedule. During 1946-7 the Communists were intensively revising the master plan and hatching the plans for a global cold war, rescheduling an eventual attack and takeover within a long-range, worldwide, strategic plan. So during this time, a great deal of threat stress – quite heavy pressure – was pressing down into the unconsciousness of a large number of Soviet Communists. This constituted a heavy pressure on the collective unconscious of all humanity at a deeper level yet, and so in the other parts of the collective unconscious, popouts (tulpoid forms, i.e. archetypes) start pressing up through the successive layers of unconsciousness above the species unconscious – the racial unconscious, the national/cultural

[*] which converts the electron to a neutrino .

unconscious, large subgroup unconscious, group unconscious, personal unconscious, etc. These successive layers modulate and shape the pattern of reality that is pushing up, much like the different frequencies add together in Fourier analysis to compose the final form that emerges. Let us pause a moment to analyse some factors bearing on these reality modulations/shapings that are occurring.

The human unconscious is deepest ingrained with the experience of the ancient jungle days of millions of years ago, not recent history. In the human 'old experience' that is in our genes, the male went where the threat/action was, while the female stayed behind in the cave/fortress with the children, protected. Also, in the primates, the erect penis is a sign of domination, i.e., dominant monkeys 'erect and mount' other male monkeys to show dominance. The erect midfinger is still a hostile gesture, and one of domination. Further, fire is a power symbol to the collective unconscious; fire was power over animal adversaries, for it kept the tigers at bay.

So all the 'threat saturation' by the Soviets in 1946-47 ought to give a male penis symbol, include the fire symbol, etc., in adjacent areas. Power and domination. Further, into the unconsciousnesses of many persons (cultural and national unconsciousness) had seeped deeply the German use of rockets – male penis/fire domination/power symbols – in WWII. Use of these weapons had fired the imagination of the free world.

So in 1946-47 the erect penis/fire symbol – for dominance, threat, and power – ought to pop out where the action is, i.e, closest to the threat of 'war threatening' agent or zone. Bingo! Ghost rockets in the countries next to the Soviet Union – Norway, Sweden, Denmark, etc.

But the U.S. is a natural fortress, or so it had always been – two great ocean barriers east and west and no strong enemy north or south. That corresponds to the 'cave/fortress' protected place, and thus a 'female symbol' should result there. Bingo! Kenneth Arnold, flying over Washington state – the closest state at the time to the Soviet Union – in 1947 sees flying saucers, which are simply female mandalas modulated by our scifi/ Buck Rogers/flying aircraft national/cultural unconsciousness. Arnold's personal unconscious, the last modulation and shaper of the reality format that emerged, is that of a pilot. So flying saucers are what appeared over the U.S.

In 1973 the Yom Kippur War occurred. That was the Soviet's 'Spanish Civil War', where the final tactics and equipment for antitank and antiaircraft weaponry were tested. The effect on the U.S. and NATO of the cutoff of Arab oil was tested. Further, when the Israelis at one point succeeded in cutting off an Egyptian army, Brezhnev telephoned the U.S. president and informed him that the Soviets were going in; the U.S. could do whatever it pleased. The Soviets had seven airborne divisions ready to send in, and the U.S. had its single airborne division on full alert, ready for insertion. So the world teetered on the brink of direct confrontation between the Soviet Union and the U.S. with all its possible consequences. And 'confrontation' is after all another word for **contact.**

Now UFO 'contactee' cases involve **confrontation.** In the very month – October – that the Yom Kippur War erupted, the greatest wave of UFO contactee cases in history broke out in the U.S. Further, in the shallower unconscious levels above the collective species unconscious which were modulating and molding the reality format, the imagination of the world had been captured by the spacesuited astronauts who had walked on the moon. So most U.S. contactee cases involved spacesuited beings, conditioned into that framework by the national/cultural modulation. Some of the contactee cases involved robots or metallic men, analogous to the mechanista and robotry of the U.S. space program. And here in the U.S., the fortress, the female-mandala craft symbol was generally maintained.

Within the last several years, a rather fantastic number of paranormal cattle mutilations have occurred across the midsection of the U.S. A peak has apparently been centred in and around Colorado – the home of Cheyenne Mountain, in whose bosom the 'heart' or control center for the strategic retaliatory forces of the U.S. is nestled. That is significant, for it is the 'heart' of the U.S. which is to be slashed and eviscerated, in the Soviet plan. But to explain the cattle mutilations, some additional factors must be developed.

When checked in his plan to attack by the advent of the atomic bomb at the close of WWII, Stalin called in his scientists and told them the destiny of Communism had been frustrated by this great U.S. technical breakthrough. Further, this would not be the last great breakthrough. However, he informed them in no uncertain terms that the next great breakthrough of that magnitude had better be Soviet in origin. Thus they were to follow every field of human knowledge, no matter how strange or unorthodox, and intensely search for such another field of breakthrough. No stone was to be left unturned in this search. Once the field was discovered, they would intensely develop superweapons in secret – just as the U.S. had done – and spring them by surprise on the West – just as the U.S. had done on Japan. Ironically, we had showed Stalin the scenario by means of which the West could eventually be overcome.

In the interim, the guerrilla tactics of terrorism and insurgency, and unrelenting pressure, that had proven so successful in the Russian Revolution,were to be launched around the world on an international scale. In all the continents, small conventional wars would 'bleed the U.S. dragon' and weaken it. The Soviet Union would also embark on a massive crash program to establish defenses weapons and jet aircraft the Germans had so brilliantly demonstrated in WWII. So in 1947 the cold war was launched, and the Soviet path to eventual world domination was clearly spelled out. The reader is assumed to be familiar with the major events of the cold war since then; and it is stressed that, since about 1972, the Soviets have greatly accelerated their procurement and stockage of new arms and

equipment, and Soviet production of war material has risen to feverish levels not reached by any other nation since Adolf Hitler's production peak just prior to his initiation of World War II.

In 1957 Everett's many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics was published by Princeton University. If one meticulously examines this theory, and if one regards a mental object as just an ordinary physical object whose time dimension is synonymous with the time dimension of ordinary physical objects, but whose spatial dimensions do not intersect spatially with the spatial dimensions of ordinary objects; then one realizes that minds are just ordinary physical worlds three or more orthogonal spatial turns away from the ordinary laboratory 3-space, and cotemporal with it – i.e., sharing the same time dimension. This is particularly likely to be noticed if one has the dialectical method (a slightly confused way of stating the author's fourth law of logic [1]), deeply ingrained in his thinking. Bingo! The Soviet theoreticians made the connection. So in 1960 Khruschev, speaking to the Presidium – to the leaders of the Communist Party, not for propaganda – stated at the conclusion of his report that the Soviet Union had a new weapon, just within the portfolio of the scientists, which was so powerful that, if unrestrainedly used, it could wipe out all life on earth. I.e., intensive psychotronic/psycho-energetic weapon development was underway in the Soviet Union [7].

At about the same time, complex, weak microwave radiation of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow began. The purpose was to modulate psychotronic signals onto weak RF carriers [8], and hit a high level U.S. target, the U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union. This would guarantee the personal attention of the U.S. President, CIA, DIA, NSA, State Department, National Security Council, etc. A few blood changes and diseases would be introduced as a Red Herring [9]. By the U.S's response to the radiation stimulus, the state of U.S. knowledge of the new breakthrough area – psychotronics – could be positively ascertained, because the decision for the response would come from the highest levels in the U.S. Government. If the U.S. reacted only to the electromagnetic component, it would show with 100% certainty that the U.S. knew nothing of psychotronics, and hence had not developed psychotronic superweapons in secret. If the U.S. reacted to the psychotronic modulation, it would show that the U.S. possessed a knowledge of psychotronics – and the specific type of reaction would indicate the sophistication of that knowledge, hence the probable nature of weaponry they might have developed. Since the beginning of this radiation of the U.S. Embassy, we have been reassuring the Soviets we know nothing about the mechanism for their new superweapons. Just how vital this strange intelligence probe is to the Soviet Union can be ascertained from the fact that three American presidents have asked them to stop the radiation, but they have not done so, merely reducing the power level to a seemingly insignificant level [10].

Khruschev, ever the ebullient peasant, quickly attempted to move strategic rocket weapons into Cuba and immediately change the balance of power, before his new superweapons were operationally deployed. The 1962 Cuban missile crisis thus caught him without his new superweapons and with his missiles in woeful operational shape. Hence he simply had to back down. About 1963, the first Soviet superweapons became operational. Today third generation superweapons are probably deployed and ready.

Ironically, in psychotronic devices the flow (background) of orthorotational flux in which coherence is multistagedly established must be relatively uniform for the coherence to be maintained: i.e. in weapons this is necessary for the superweapons to work. Occasionally, for random intervals of from 15 minutes or so to a day or two, turbulent flux is encountered. All of a given type case work simultaneously, and all resume again together – something totally different from any normal weapon system failure mode. Hence the superweapons cannot be absolutely depended upon for the primary effectors, but are best used as a backup, with mind-stunning shock and devastation, just as the U.S. used its two atomic bombs on Japan in WWII.

So for that reason the Soviet buildup in conventional and nuclear arms has aimed at overwhelming strength in those categories, even though the superweapons exist and are deployed and ready. The greatest armada of weaponry in history has continued to steadily be built up by the Soviet Union. The attack operation is poised and ready. A lightning blow of unprecedented ferocity and speed – followed by a massive, mind-paralyzing, awesome demonstration of devastation by the superweapons – is imminent.

The plan is simple and three-phased: 1) Secure the Eurasian continent by defeating NATO and annihilating Red China, ejecting the U.S. presence, and taking over Europe. This requires three to six days. In the process, just as the U.S. President is contemplating full nuclear strategic retaliation – say, after 50% casualties in NATO in the first three days, a ground advance of 250 kilometres, seizure of total air superiority in the first several hours, and unrelenting and merciless air attack has devastated critical installations, supplies, centres, and forces throughout the NATO rear – the psychotronic weapons will be unleashed in a mindbending, terrible demonstration that will totally paralyse the West, just as the two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki paralysed a fanatical Japan in WWII. [11] 2) Split the American continent in two, seizing South America and the Panama Canal. The Cubans are the stars of this show. That is why they have been involved in about 11 or so countries to gain experience. Angola was the dress rehearsal for the Cuban forces. 3) After the U.S. has collapsed in total chaos and economic destitution, Soviet forces simply march in to restore order.

Now if all this unbelievable scenario has any validity, then after the final rehearsal – i.e., after

the 1973 MidEast War – one ought to see an increase in the Tulpoid phenomena of a sharply symbolic nature which can be appropriately psychoanalysed. And so it has happened, and so one can.

The cow is in the Western female symbol par excellence; Western children nurse on cow's milk. So if the fortress is going to be violated, then one ought to see the female symbol being violated. So cattle mutilations of a mysterious, paranormal nature have been occurring all across the U.S. – from the East coast out through Colorado, Utah, and Montana – about two thousand or so by now. The U.S's lifeblood is going to be drained – and totally. Thus all the blood is drained from the cattle. The Soviet operation will be launched with blinding speed and surgical precision – and so the mutilation of the cattle is as if surgically performed. The children of the West shall be cut off from their sustenance – and so teats are removed. The armed forces (males) confronting the Soviet forces will be devastated – i.e., the 'fruit of the womb' will be devastated – so the sexual organs of the cows are excised. Free speech and freedom to hear will be excised, so the lips, tongues, and ears are excised. A very high technology will play a role, but one which will limit the resistance – so the cut edges are as if made by pinking shears and then precisely burned with a laser (laser being highly symbolic of new, strange technology/weaponry almost incomprehensible to the average person). In at least one case a horse was the victim – a young horse, symbolic of the young soldier. It was castrated – i.e., the dominance of the Western soldier will be excised surgically. Castration of the male symbolizes the total loss of power and the infliction of absolute impotency. There is even more meaning available to be read in the animal mutilations, but this sampling should suffice to give a bloodcurdling example of the metapsychiatric analysis results.

But yet a final shock awaits us. Just prior to the actual Soviet attack against NATO, the tulpoid symbology should be raised to the highest possible degree. And there would seem to be only one additional degree higher than the mutilation of the cow: that is the sexual mutilation of the human female. So in horror one realizes that the model predicts the raising of the cattle mutilation symbology to a rash or wave of human female mutilations. The first such incident may already have occurred. In May 1977 a strange, horrible, sexual mutilation of a human female occurred in the Greater Boston area.

In paranormal phenomena, the inadvertent or forced raising of the kundalini often evokes a paroxysm of insanity. The raising of the kundalini of the entire human species seems now to be underway, and a drastic forcing of it seems to be at hand.

The final agony of the birth of Man – or of his death – is begun.

Tom Bearden – 25 May 1977

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. For development and discussion of the fourth law of logic, see Thomas E. Bearden, *An Approach to Understanding Psychotronics,* Defense Documentation Center (DDC), June 1976, AD-A027866; *Writing the Observer Back Into the Equation,* DDC, June 1976, AD-A027867; and *Solution of the Fundamental Problem of Quantum Mechanics,* DDC, January 3, 1977, AD-A034237.

2. See *The Many-Worlds Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics,* A Fundamental Exposition by Hugh Everett, III, with papers by J.A. Wheeler, B.S. DeWitt, L.N. Cooper and D. Van Vechten, and N. Graham; eds. Bryce S. DeWitt and Neill Graham, Princeton Series In Physics, Princeton University Press, 1973.

3. For a brief description of how and why the time 'dimension' is actually an oscillatory wave, see Thomas E. Bearden, *Photon Quenching of the Paranormal (Time) Channel: A Breif Note,* DDC, April 20, 1977, AD-A038588.

4. With the possible exception of Kozyrev -- whose more technical works on time remain undisclosed to open science -- no other person known to this author seems to have grasped the implications of a dynamic structure of time as deeply and penetratingly as has Charles Muses. E.g., see Muses foreword to Jerome Rothstein, *Communication, Organization, and Science,* The Falcon's Wing Press, Indian Hills, Colarado, 1958, pp. vii-xcvi. Western scientists have not grasped the engineering implications of Muses work -- matter materialization, dematerialization, and consciousness processing -- on time and his brilliant work on hypernumbers. It is little short of astonishing that the genesis point for a totally new science and technology has been shelved since 1957-58 in the works of Everett and Muses, and that even today Western scientists continue to ignore works of such fundamental importance. The referenced Foreword by Muses is a remarkable document which analyses the structure of time itself, and on p. lxii, Muses pointed out that the celebrated wave-particle paradox remains a paradox only so long as the chronotopological phases of the phenomena are left unrealized in the analysis. Thus in 1958 Muses had already pointed out that the structure of time held the key to all of quantum mechanics, a conclusion reached independently by this present author in 1977 (see reference 2 above). This author also pointed out that the photon interaction was the key to the creaton of 'objectivity', and this observation appears to be the final factor necessary to solving the two-slit experiment (see references 2 and 3 above).

5. For the amplification mechanism and its theory, see Thomas E. Bearden, *The One Human Problem, Its Solution, and Its Relation to UFO Phenomena,* DDC, January 3, 1977, AD-A034236, Appendix I: The Holographic Hyperchannel Effect. While the mechanism is developed for linked brain stages, it also applies to certain types of multistaged amplifiers, and to 'mental' forms coherently existing in more than one human mind.

6. The so-called 'collapse of the wave function' is simply the result of the coherent time superposition of virtual subquanta of action – in all $\Delta T\Delta E$ quanta of which the ΔT's are of identical magnitude – reaching and breaching the quantum threshold given by $\Delta E\Delta T = h/4\pi$ and turning into observable change. The mechanism for this direct amplification of the virtual state is referenced in reference 5 above. Mass itself is simply the localized

totality of such 'switching' from the virtual state to the objective state; see Thomas E. Bearden, *Quiton/Perceptron Physics: A Theory of Existence, Perception, and Physical Phenomena, DDC, March 1973, AD 7632 10 for* the defining equation of mass in this respect. The 'switching' from virtual state to observable state actually involves orthorotation from other orthogonal spatial frames into the laboratory spatial frame, among and in an infinite set of orthogonal 4 -spaces which share in common a single time dimension. If, in addition to its 'switching circulation' flux into and out of the laboratory 3-space (which constitutes mass), the area or locality of laboratory 3-space also contains a 'switching circulation' flux into and out of an orthogonal 3-space that is one orthogonal turn away from the laboratory frame, then that orthogonal flux is virtual --i.e., the flux may be said to consist of 'virtual photons,' and that arrangement constitutes *charge* since the first ortho-frame constitutes the electric field (see the first reference listed in Note 1 above).

7. The words 'psychoenergetic' and 'psychotronics' in fact imply the interaction of 'mind' and matter and the processing of these interactions by physical devices. In an infinite set of time clustered, spatially orthogonal frames which all share in common a single time dimension, all frames three or more orthogonal spatial turns away from the laboratory frame are *minds* or *mindworlds.* The 'thought forms' in each mindworld are actually concrete, physical objects *in that frame.* The Soviet term *psychoenergetics* and the Czechoslovakian term psychotronics are thus quite appropriate indeed. Peter Kapitsa, the renowned physicist and free-thinker, informed Kruschev that if a means of total neutralization of foreign missiles was to be found, it could only come from a group of new principles in physics called 'energetics'. It was at this time that the Soviets began a massive research program in energetics. It would also appear from this nomenclature that the Soviet choice of the term 'psychoenergetics' for what the West calls 'parapsychology' is particularly significant.

8. To prevent the time-squelching effect of the photon interaction in the visible light spectrum, psychotronic signals may be modulated upon RF carrier waves, I.e., each 'RF photon' carries a vibratory bit of time carrier wave along with it, and the psychotronic pattern may quite comfortably ride along in that bit of oscillatory time as a modulation upon it, and thus ride right through visible light photons without interaction.

9. For extremely significant Soviet work on the transmission of death and disease patterns from one cell culture to another in a very unusual manner, see V.P. Kaznacheyev et al, 'Distant Intercellular Interactions in a System of Two Tissue Cultures,' *Psychoenergetic Systems,* Vol. 1, No. 3, March 1976, pp. 141-142. See also V.P. Kaznacheyev et al, 'Apparent Information Transfer Between Two Groups of Cells'. *Psychoenergetic Systems,* Vol. 1, No.1, December 1974, p.37. (Tom Bearden's article carried a few supplementary references to the microwave bombardment of the US Embassy in Moscow from early 1976. Although lack of space forbids their inclusion here, we summarise a few recent reports, including the emergence of a strange blood disorder among Embassy staff, in the section on 'Electromagnetic Curiosities' elsewhere in this issue - Ed.)

10. With the 'kindling effect' recently discovered in brain research related to epilepsy, repetition of even an extremely weak signal is sufficient. All that is necessary is to insure the survival of the psychotronic pattern through the squelching effect of the visible light spectrum. That is easily done by modulating it onto an RF carrier wave. See 'Kindling, Once Epilepsy Model, May Relate to Kundalini' *Brain/Mind Bulletin* Vol. 2, No. 7, Feb. 21, 1977, pp. 2-3.

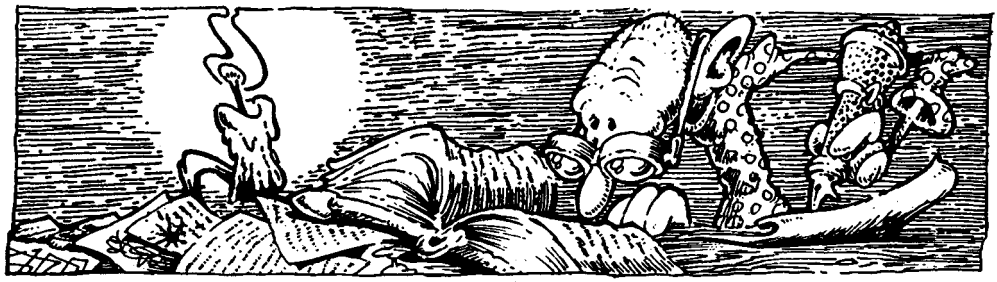
11. And to make the U.S. President's decision not to use or attempt to use strategic nuclear weapons easier the wily opponent will probably offer a 'Dunkirk,' i.e., to stop the victorious Soviet field forces in position and allow the battered remnants of the U.S. forces in the European Theater to withdraw. Congress particularly would find that appealing; the world would not get blown up, the troops would be allowed to survive and return home, and the terrible fear of the fantastic new weaponry unveiled by the adversary might be assuaged. Congress pressure on the President in such a case would be formidable, to say the least! And after all, would not the Soviets be merely imposing their own 'Monroe Doctrine' in their own hemisphere, just as we had once done in ours?

OUR COVER

To herald our selection of 'Holygrams (see p33 and pp36-40) we chose this magnificant woodcut, by Albrecht Dürer, from the Nuremburg Prayer Book, 1503. It depicts St Veronica holding the famous veil with which she wiped Christ's face when he stumbled on the Via Dolorosa, and which came thereby to be imprinted with his image. Although there is no evidence at all to support the original existence of such a woman - whose name is derived from 'vera-icon' (true image) - a cloth said to be St Veronica's Veil has been kept in a secret reliquary in St Peter's at Rome, since the 8th century.

NEXT ISSUE

Next issue will carry an article by Paul Begg debunking the legend of the UFO kidnapping of the Norfolk 'regiment'; Bob Skinner analyses the methods by which the damned data of Forteanism are defused by the ignorant, the blind the fearful and the stupid; plus notes (we hope) on fires, ball lightnings, ice-falls, spoon-benders, and we hope to have a listing of some of the 'superlative' weather and quake events of the last couple of years; plus another episode of 'Fortean Funnies'.



REVIEW SUPPLEMENT

We welcome books and journals for review or exchange on all topics of related interest. The details and contents of journals are given in the next issue after receipt, and the return favour in their pages would be appreciated.

hardbacks

Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology: edited by Leslie Shepard (Gale Research, Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226, USA., 1978; $48.00; 2 vols, pp1084, 10 indexes) -- I'm sure that many of you interested in subjects in or overlapping the general fields of the Occult ('hidden') and psychic phenomena of all kinds, at some time or another, have keenly felt the need for an authoritative reference work in the form of an encyclopedia for quick references and explanations on obscure, long defunct, or unfamiliar terms, topics or societies; or on encountering references to one of the myriad forms of the unknown you have wished for a good, quick and knowledgable scene-setting encapsulation of the subject and its implication. If you were lucky, rich or a book-collector, you could probably turn to Lewis Spence's Encyclopedia of the Occult (1920), or Dr Nandor Fodor's Encyclopedia of Psychic Science (1934), both sadly neglected masterpieces of their time and compilers' skill and unrivalled knowledge, the former long out of print and quite rare, the latter hard to find outside the USA where it had 1966 and 1974 reprintings (both thanks to Leslie Shepard). Beyond these sources the average inquirer would find very little of help - the new edition of the Encyclopedia Britanica is of little help with unorthodox subjectmatter, and the otherwise splendid Man, Myth & Magic has the limitation of being too general in many important areas.

Leslie Shepard conceived the idea of combining the encyclopedias of Spence and Fodor, a useful enough project on its own, but taking some pains to go further. Shepard, who has a considerable reputation as a scholar himself, edited the 1966 University Books edition of Fodor, bringing many entries up to date and adding a very few tantalising but essential new entries. This was reprinted by Citadel in 1974, but clearly was inadequate in view of the amount of new material (and historical insight) accreting to nearly every topic every year, as well as the wholly new topics arising out of modern parapsychological studies etc etc. It was clear that an extensive revision and expansion was needed beyond the straightforward correlation of the two encyclopedias. And so, after several years in the making, we at last have one of the most valuable and practical works one can imagine or want. Shepard adds nearly 2000 new entries to the 3000 or so of Fodor and Spence, collated into a single edition spanning 2 volumes, covering every conceivable phenomenon, cult, society, personality, periodical, topic and issue in the field. It must be especially commended for the nine cross-referenced special subject indexes on animals, demons, gems, places, gods, phenomena, periodicals, plants, and societies. The phenomena index is further subdivided into 50 topics ranging from apparitions, eyeless sight and levitation, to stigmata and teleportation. The whole is topped by a cross-referenced 42 page general index.

In a work of this scope there are inevitable errors and omissions - and sometimes the lack of signposts in the layout make it difficult to know where you are without flicking back and forth for the nearest heading...but these niggles can be forgiven when you hold the 2 volumes - their weight and the patient work in just getting this far are truly

impressive. If the measure of an encyclopedia lies in its usefulness then this one justifies itself easily. Already in the short time I've had the review copy it has proved invaluable, saving me considerable time and effort in looking for essential cases and quotes, compiling short bibliographies on a number of phenomenal themes, and in explaining to me some spiritualist and occult-philosophy terms that were new to me - it also helped locate a starting point for a colleague's research into the origin of certain geomantic themes in the various Indian religions. This is a good omen for a long life of continuous use.

As if all this wasn't enough, Gale Research and Shepard plan the irregular publication of four supplements of corrections, updates and new material in the coming years to keep it even more current. This highly laudable project, called Occultism Update, will be available at the subscription of $30.00 for the four issues. Perhaps, sometime in the future, Gale could be persuaded to compound the superlatives by bringing out a new edition with the new material, this time with the benefit of illustrations.

In the meantime I have no hesitation in urging you all to get this Encyclopedia - the effort that's gone into it it worthy of the fullest support of Forteans and other researchers. It should be on the reference shelves of every library, public, personal, university and school libraries. Without a doubt it is one of the most important reference works of its type to be published, and its consultation will be mandatory for a long long time. RJMR

Hauntings by Peter Underwood (JM Dent, 1977; £5.95; pp256, photos, bib, index) -- The subtitle reads 'New Light on the Greatest True Ghost Stories of the World', but it would have been more accurate (though less appealing) to have said: 'A Glimmer of New Light on Some of the Most Often Retold, Possibly True, Ghose Cases of Britain, Canada and France'. The cases dealt with in Underwood's new book, are: Hampton Court, the Drummer of Tedworth, the Wesley poltergeist, the Hinton Ampner poltergeist, Glamis Castle, the Amherst (Nova Scotia) poltergeist, Berkeley Square (London), Cheltenham, Versailles and Borley Rectory. In each chapter we are given a description of the events and the research done over the years, followed by any new evidence unearthed by Underwood, and his conclusions. These are never (except in one instance I'll come to) as revolutionary as the subtitle leads us to believe. For example, he seems to accept that there are ghosts at Hampton Court, and Borley, which we already know, but is less accommodating about the poltergeist cases.

Although he gives the Wesley poltergeist of 1716, and the Hinton Ampner poltergeist of mid-18th century, the thumbs up, he dismisses the Tedworth poltergeist of the 1660s: "This particular classic case of haunting falls apart when subjected to scrutiny and would appear on present day re-examination to be the result of exaggeration, conscious fraud and inexact and biased reporting." (p56) 300 years later we cannot know for sure. He is also unhappy about the Amherst case of 100 years ago: "On reflection it must seem probable that the 'Great Amherst Mystery' can be answered in terms of psychosomatic disturbance and inaccurate or exaggerated reporting of incidents that took place in the vicinity of the unfortunate and unhappy Esther Cox." (p153) But I feel he writes the case off too easily; many of the events sound like classic poltergeist effects, not easily hoaxed. An example of his dismissal which I cannot accept appears on p141: "The Rev RA Temple, their own minister, said he was witness to a particularly curious incident when a bucket of cold water, standing on the kitchen table, became agitated as though boiling, although the water remained cold. Esther was present but nowhere near the bucket at the time. It is an effect that could have been produced in a number of ways and it is perhaps the first incident in the house of mystery that smacks of conscious fraud." Unfortunately Underwood does not enlarge on this and fails to tell the reader of any way in which this effect could be faked.

The ghosts of Berkeley Square are difficult to track down with the lack of first-hand reports, and I agree in this case that it is "impossible to sort fact from fiction". Also the paranormal nature of the 1901 Versailles experience of the Misses Moberly and Jourdain is, I agree, suspect. But I have saved till last the chapter that most surprised me - the chapter in which Underwood lets his imagination run away with his reason - on the Cheltenham ghost of 1882-6. This impressive case concerns a large house haunted by a woman thought to be one of the previous tennants; the chief witness being a daughter of the house, Rosina Despard, who later became a doctor. She took a

great interest in the ghost which was also seen by other members of the family but not by her father - and Underwood thinks it strange she did not mention the ghost to him for over 2 years. This isn't so strange - my father isn't the sort of person to tell such things to either! Underwood acknowledges that a strange woman was seen in the house, but doubts she was a ghost - he suggests she was "an illicit lodger", installed by Captain Despard whose wife was an invalid. The mind boggles! This might account in part for the figure being seen at night; but she was also seen once in the daytime, downstairs, and when cornered by the curious Rosina, she disappeared. Some lodger! Underwood does not attempt to explain away such features of the case. There are other criticisms: the 'lodger' was never seen going to the bathroom; and what about her meals? How could she walk through strings fixed over the stairs? What about the independent testimony of the charwoman who saw the ghost vanish? So many flaws spring to mind that I wonder if Underwood can be serious in his suggestion, or whether he is desperate to find any explanation for a case which has implications he is unwilling to accept. Despite this, it is an interesting book for the newcomer to ghost-lore, but may be found repetitive by those well versed in it.

Janet Bord

Sea Serpents, Sailors & Sceptics by Graham J McEwan (RKP, 1978; £4.50; pp133, photos, illus, chron table, bib) -- Taking the works of Tim Dinsdale and Bernard Heuvelmans as his main sources, Graham McEwan has produced a succinctly informative introduction to the subject of the Great Sea Serpent. He covers all the important nineteenth and twentieth century sightings, from the 1817 appearances of a monster in Gloucester Bay, Massachusetts to my own close encounter with Morgawr the Cornish 'Sea Giant', in November 1976.

Like Oudemans, Heuvelmans and Costello before him, Graham McEwan seems keen to promote the hypothetical long-necked pinniped as a likely candidate for the subject of most reported sightings. He classifies Morgawr under this heading - maybe he's right...maybe not. Disappointingly, he avoids any discussion of sea serpents as phenomenal entities, planting his feet firmly in the flesh-and-blood-physical camp - eg a mermaid, captured, and described in great detail, by a group of 19th C Shetland fishermen, is dismissed as "too improbable"...whatever that may mean! The section on Morgawr steers clear of any reference to the coincidental appearances, in 1976, of the Mawnan Owlman and a flurry of UFOs over Cornwall (maybe long-necked pinnipeds are attracted by such things?)

The book is illustrated with drawings and photographs...and I was interested to note the probably quite insignificant fact that, of the 10 silhouettes of monsters, 9 depict the beasts moving from left to right. The 10th, a plan view of the Mackintosh Bell beastie, is obviously upside down! I wish it had been stated clearly that Mary F took twc photos, and I took three, showing the monster in varying positions - these were all reproduced in Bob Rickard's article on Morgawr in the Oct 1977 issue of Fate - Graham uses just one of each.

Having got those minor criticisms off my chest, I must say that SSS&S is efficiently written and nicely produced, aimed at the general reader, not the specialist. Graham's next book, I'm told, will be on the subject of UFOs. Perhaps his researches will encourage him, eventually, to regard the sea serpent from a phenomenalist point of view.

Doc Shiels

Divining the Primary Sense: Unfamiliar Radiation in Nature, Art and Science, by Herbert Weaver (RKP 1978; £4.75; pp140, photos, diagrams, notes index) -- Using a device called a Revealer Field Detector, and a technique similar to that employed in dowsing, Herbert Weaver claims to have discovered natural radiations which the animal kingdom can sense, but man no longer can. He also believes that certain patterns can suppress the radiations, and that many living creatures employ this system of suppression as a protection against predators. Further, he finds such symbols in man's art and architecture throughout his evolution. If all the examples given in this book have been checked by experimentation then the author has undertaken a prodigious amount of work. The author is obviously deeply involved in his work with the Revealer - but as dowsing can sometimes show a subjective influence, the author 's work ought (and deserves) to be checked and double-checked independently. The author has applied his interpretations to several wide fields, and appears widely read, yet it not said how his work relates to or agrees with the findings of other dowsers, ley and

earth current researchers, and astro-archeologists. This omission suggests Weaver is not aware of the findings and methods of people like TC Lethbridge and Guy Underwood for example, or prefers to ignore them - odd to say the least. One gets the feeling he has worked in a vacuum, isolated from the developments in closely related fields. His work may be valid and valuable, an important contribution to the present upsurge of interest in natural currents and radiations - but it is difficult to tell, because it is not easy to read or understand.

Janet Bord

Sun, Moon and Standing Stones by John Edwin Wood (Oxford University Press, 1978; £6.95; pp218, photos, figs) -- Dr Wood (Deputy Director of the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment) considers the evidence for and against the recent geometrical and astronomical interpretations of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age architecture in the British Isles. This is a useful book for those who want a down-to-earth account of 'new wave' prehistory - but Forteans beware! Dr Wood is not on our side. On p191, after the expected dismissal of leys, he also disposes of "magic , dowsing, ESP and the occult, and indeed...almost anything with an air of mystery about it, whether the Loch Ness Monster or previous visitations from outer space." Archeologists are boringly consistent in their attitude to the "lunatic fringe" (a phrase used yet again, in this book), and in their refusal to even consider any alternative approach to their subject. To quote Dr Wood again: "Unfortunately these ideas go largely unchallenged, because scientists are reluctant to divert their attention from productive work to what they see as sterile argument, unlikely to lead to any useful conclusion." But on the next page he tells us about the breakdown of the diffusionist theory, which was literally the cornerstone of British and European prehistory until radiocarbon dating showed it to be totally inaccurate. With the diffusionist theory "no longer tenable" and new ideas having to be worked out to take its place, how can Dr Wood be so sure that research into leys etc is "unlikely to lead to any useful conclusion"? It is really sad that archeologists and others are so cut off from the exciting discoveries being made in ley and Fortean research. But perhaps, beneath their outward disdain, they are afraid to face the extraordinary phenomena of this earth. Bones and pottery are more familiar and predictable.

Janet Bord

In Search of Ancient Astronomies, EC Krupp (ed)(Doubleday, 1978;$10.00; pp300, photos, diagrams, bib, index) -- In contrast to Dr Wood (above) Dr Krupp is virtually a model of flexibility in an establishment figure (he is Director of the Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles) who has found the time to critically examine many of the fields that are beneath Dr Wood's outraged dignity. Through his long association with top researchers he has assembled this timely collection of detailed articles on 'archeoastronomy', the new study of the astronomies of ancient and prehistoric times. Seven chapters by five authors cover different aspects of archeoastronomy worldwide, including Neolithic ring and menhir geometry (by the Thoms); Stonehenge; cliffs, mounds and medicine wheels of North America; Meso-America (Maya and Aztec); Egypt and the pyramids; some guidelines and principles of astronomy that would be practical for the megalith-builders; and a final chapter which "contrasts" the earlier subject matter with the theses of Velikovsky, Von Daniken, the Glastonbury Zodiac and the Sirius mystery. This last task is handled by Krupp himself (with some style), his main attack being "not their ideas but the way in which their ideas are defended", in particular the usual appeal to science, in which case the evidence should be presented and judged according to accepted scientific standards of criticism. Where this breaks down, of course, is when intractable and pompous scientists, no less than the crank, applies one law to himself and another to those he sees threatening him.

This is a thorough and readable book, a useful reference with a comprehensive bibliography, and heavily illustrated (though some of the site photos could have been better printed). RJMR/JB

Stone Circles of the Peak by John Barnatt (Turnstone Books, 1978; £4.95; pp208, maps, disgrams, index, bib) -- John Barnatt has combined his interest in Thom's work on the geometry of stone circles with his obvious love of the Derbyshire Peak District, and the result is a thorough study of the prehistoric sites of that small area of Britain. Introductory text on the Peak, its landscape, history and prehistory, is followed research into

geometry and measurement, astronomy, relationships to the landscape and macrocosmic geometry. Itineraries for the visitor are given, then detailed descriptions and interpretations of the sites themselves. Illustrations consist mainly of site plans, area maps and diagrams of the astronomical geometry of the stones in their landscape. This book will be of great value to researchers engaged in similar work, to show them what can be done and how to go about it; and visitors to the sites, who have an interest in astroarcheology, will surely find it will enhance their appreciation of the Peak stone circles.

Janet Bord.

Shakespeare's Use of Dream & Vision by John Arthos (Bowes & Bowes; £5.00; £5.00; pp208, index, notes) -- Precisely what the title says it is. Although primarily a literary analysis of dreams, ghosts and apparitions in Shakespeare's plays and poems, Arthos does relate this on the one hand to the audience's need for wonder (then as now), and on the other Shakespeare 's own fascination with the visionary as a character of complex tragedy and comedy - perhaps one of the most consistent themes throughout his work.

Arthos disdains the intellectual sport of spotting the Bard's sources, but does enlarge on what Shakespeare's use of ghosts and portents tells us about the beliefs of the audience, and about his own learning. On either point the material is intelligently discussed and provides diverting reading for the Fortean who would like to know what a poetic genius thought and felt about the Forteana of earlier days.

RJMR

Zen and Confucius in the art of Swordsmanship by Reinhard Kammer (RKP 1978; £3.95; pp 118; bib, notes, illos) - The Buddhist Writings of Lafcadio Hearn (Ross-Erikson, Santa Barbara, 1977; $; pp330; bib, illos) We have met the Tengu, the winged mountain demons of Japan, before in these pages (FT 17/20) where their mastery of illusion was discussed. They were also considered masters of the art of swordsmanship, and the bulk of Kammer's slim book, apart from some additional material on the history and schools of Japanese swordskill, is taken up by a translation of 'Tengu Geijutsu Ron', the Discourse on the art of the Tengu', written in 1728 by Chozan Shissai. Put into the mouths of the Tengu, this a philosophical treatise on the mystical and essential features of swordsmanship as a 'way', similar to Zen archery; though from a viewpoint that is almost entirely neo-Confucian, despite the title. Hearn, who died in 1904, was an admirable prose stylist who devoted his latter years to presenting Japan, its legends and folklore to the West. This collection, introduced by Kenneth Rexroth, deals more with popular belief than Buddhism's philosophical aspects and, even if more interesting Fortean material (including tales of the Tengu) is to be found in his many other works, it makes an excellent introduction to the work of a brilliant and neglected writer.

SM

Supernatural England by Eric Maple (Robert Hale, 1977; £4.50; pp208; photos, bib, index) -- Several recent books have made use of Britain's rich store of folklore, ghostlore, magic and witchcraft. Maple's is no better and no worse than its predecessors, but an interesting read for anyone new to this kind of material. Each chapter is devoted to a geographical region, and the result is somewhat list-like. The book adds nothing to present research and it is a pity that sources are not given. There are a meagre 12 photos of sites, and an unnecessarily lurid dustjacket.

JB

Haunted Ireland: Her Romantic and Mysterious Ghosts, by John J Dunne (Appletree Press, Belfast, 1977; £4.50; pp109 - also in paper, price unknown) -- An odd book, not because of the text (52 short accounts of ghosts of all kinds, traditional and vague) but because the accompanying B&W photos, although evoking the period, have little or no connection with the text, as indicated by the often irrelevant and annoying captions. The text itself is rather dull, written with little comprehension of the subject matter - but does contain some useful fragments, eg some Black Dog accounts, and a recent (1966) case where a girl saw "a huge horse with a man's face and horrible bulging eyes". I eagerly looked up p40, 'The Tragic Bride of Charles Fort', only to discover that 'he' is an old garrison near Kinsale, Co Cork!; and on "the grey ramparts of historic Charles Fort,

her graceful wraith still walks..." The 3 blank pages at the end could have usefully been filled by an index. JB

paperbacks

Sky Creatures: Living UFOs by Trevor James Constable (Pocket Books, NY, 1978; $1.95; pp252) -- Ovoid mica-like plasmatic unicellular amoeba-type life-forms, ranging from the size of "a coin to a half mile" - these are the critters, the name given by Constable to the sky creatures that "live invisibly like fish in the ocean of atmosphere." These organisms are wholly external to the biological classification of Earth's biota, and thus pose a stunning and unsuspected challenge to exobiologists whose attentions are focused hypothetically in far-away galaxies while supermassive alien beasties roam through our stratosphere...and lower!

The first widespread mention of the flourishing Sky Creatures was postulated in 1955 by John Bessor, who asked: "If the seas of our earth are swarming with varieties of living things, both great and small, is it not logical to assume that the 'sea' of our sky abounds with sundry forms of living things...adaptable to their celestial environment?"

Now, almost a quarter of a century later, confirmation of Bessor's speculation abounds in Sky Creatures. These critters, though normally vibrating in the infrared spectrum (to which the human eye is ocularly insensitive),can nevertheless be photographed! The required investment is far less than the millions of dollars the professional exobiologists demand of taxpayers for their flights of fancy. Constable shows how, for about $25, anyone can begin his own -potentially rewarding - search for these aerial creatures that assail Biology's tenets,about what life is and where it can be, as well as Newtonian optics and Einsteinean physics!

Needless to say, metallic-like discs travelling at many hundreds of MPH only to disappear on radar scopes are apt to be labelled as UFOs (which is strictly correct, of course!) Constable argues for the mandatory consideration that "Many UFOs are living organisms...native to our atmosphere that have been living with us, side by side, unnoticed, since the begining of time." Not completely unnoticed, though! A few dramatic visual sightings of luminous living aeroforms are described - eg the mysterious "Meteor Procession" of 1913. Even a USAF report issued in 1949 (!) commented that many so-called UFOs "acted more like animals than anything else." Constable has even photographed USAF jets vainly trying to "chase down" a critter as it soared above the Mojave Desert! (Wonder what the Condon Committee would have said about that!)

Sky Creatures, and its unabridged classic predecessor, The Cosmic Pulse of Life (1976), sound the death knell for the view that all intelligently maneuvering inexplicable aerial displays must be alien spaceships - though Constable's investigations of etherean physics do reveal clues about the propulsion of mechanical UFOs. Besides UFOs and alien creatures, other subjects of Fortean interest include the work of Dr Wilhelm Reich and others into alternative energies; models of reality; expanded consciousness; bioenergies...and life... The scope is clearly broad - the ramifications immense - and the synthesizing bold, incisive and provocative. Constable says: "Because of my faith in the new humanity coming to earth...I now hand you the results of my labor and urge you to press on." Where might it lead?

Larry Arnold

Creatures of the Outer Edge by Loren Coleman & Jerome Clark (Warner, NY, $?; NEL, London, 1978; 85p; pp239, bib) -- To anyone who has followed the UFO and Fortean journals over the last few years, the subject of mystery animals that look like animals but which the evidence (or lack of it) suggests were not animals as we know them, will not be an unfamiliar one. We have seen them populate the undergrowth of UFOs, Bigfoot, leys, fairylore, folklore and witchcraft, and they have materialised in other Fortean fields. Although this book was largely written 2 years ago (and unaccountably delayed) there has until now been no serious study of what we might call 'phenomenal zoology'. The writings and researches of Clark and Coleman, together and separately, have usually included references to the other-world or dream-like aura attatched to mystery animal sightings, and this timely book presents their collected considerations, with an epilogue bringing the subject up to date (ie 1977).

Despite the railings against the limitations of scientists, Forteans suffer from specialisation too - for example the ETH nuts-and-bolts school of ufology and the flesh-and-blood camp of Bigfoot hunters both refuse to acknowledge cases

or details in cases which seem to be descriptions of paraphysical or parapsychological phenomena. In the case of UFOs there have been a number of books dealing with associated paranormal phenomena, and two journals of discussion (the excellent MUFOB, and FSR)...but the equivalent attention to the paranormal side of mystery animals is fairly lacking outside the book by Slate & Berry, and occasional articles. Yet the subject bears considerable depth, and sketchy though the historical material is in this book, it does convey the antiquity and high strangeness of mystery animal phenomena. What are we to make of animals which seem real but leave no tracks, kills or lairs? Or their phenomenal opposites, the phantoms that do leave tracks and kills? And what about the demonstrable UFO link: some MAs seem to be occupants, others merely appear in a flap-area, during before or after the flap? And what about the extremely puzzling paranormal factor: animals that dematerialise, or generally behave like UFOs and their occupants themselves, giving witnesses paralysing psychic shock, or premonitions, and even a classic case of post-encounter personality-change?

The answers to these questions are complex and far-reaching - and with the best will in the world Clark and Coleman have only room enough here to set the scene for the questions. The anwers are not given (wisely) but hinted. No one really knows, but intelligent conclusions can be tentatively drawn from a cool consideration of the data, and this means (the authors plead) the inclusion of psychological, mythological and sociological factors also. If there is one thing to learn it is the folly of seeing single facets of the phenomenon in isolation, both from parts of the account distasteful to the investigator, and from the cultural context.

Structurally, the authors divide their chapters among MAs generally, Bigfeet, Manimals, Phantom Cats and Dogs, and Winged Creatures - they omit aquatic monsters for several reasons, I feel: their personal experience and expertise covers all the above, but not sea and lake monster research; the inclusion would make the present study large and unmanageable in this format; and time forced them to draw a line conveniently between land and water monsters...but the present work does not suffer for the

'As phenomenalists, we accept everything; we believe nothing absolutely; we do not explain.'

Robert J. M. Rickard and John Michell

PHENOMENA

A Book of Wonders

The most significant survey of strange phenomena to be published in forty years, Phenomena assembles in one book the largest and most comprehensive collection of illustrated Forteana to date. The authors explore the principles of historical and thematic continuity and promote 'phenomenal reality', an intermediate state between the factual and psychological realities as the possible common denominator of the wide spectrum of inexplicable phenomena from levitation to UFOs. 219 illustrations

Thames & Hudson - paper: £1.95.
Pantheon (USA) - hardback: $10.95.
(in Sept) - paper: $5.95.

for postal orders, see details in the panel on p52, this issue.

lack, in fact to the contrary it has sharpened the authors' concentration. By comparing cases in all categories they arrive at the conclusion that is a consistent morphology, a pattern of events that repeats in all times and places (with variations) and across the categories. Because of this they cannot agree with those who say MAs are 'created' by UFOs, but that UFOs, MAs and even ghosts and other paranormal phenomena seem to be but different and interrelated expressions of the same pattern or organising force. MAs, like poltergeists, UFOs and their occupants, make similar sounds, noises, similarly leave ambiguous evidence, contradict 'natural' laws, have a psychic component, cause power-drains and stop cars, and appear to have meaningful actions and details.

Where then should we look for answers? Perhaps the most encouraging direction is also the most obscure - and certainly the one many people regard with foreboding (is that itself a clue?) The phenomena may be symbols evoked through the very processes which define for us reality and fantasy. This thesis notes that the 'animal' has always been a symbol for the archaic nature of the human psyche, and that an alienated symbol (or a symbol of an alienated psychic process) would appear in its negative aspect - baffling, alien, dark, menacing, violent and disruptive - though these qualities are dangers real enough to a beleaguered mind they become more sinister as the product of denial and repression of our archaic and instinctive natures. The UFO is more than a symbol of psychic unity, it has become corrupted by an overlay symbol of the 'Deux ex machina', the salvation from ourselves, from outside the planet, conceived of in terms of a space-age 'cargo cult'. Small wonder then that in its negative mode the UFO aligns itself with other alienated phenomena and processes, and becomes the agent (and its occupants, the angels) of possession and menace, not of salvation. Like poltergeists, witches and evil abducting entities, the MAs tell us more about ourselves than they reveal about themselves - which is all a symbol should be. What is most disturbing is what they are reflecting, about our spirit and our long suffering Mother planet.

This book deserves your attention, as the quality of the writing, research and discussions therein come from two of the world's top Forteans - besides it's damned good! Perhaps NEL will take a hint and bring out the authors' previous, and to date unrivalled, book, The Unidentified, in this country.

RJMR

Jesus Died in Kashmir by A Faber-Kaiser (Abacus, 1978; £1.25; pp184, maps, photos, bib, index) -- Jesus, it seems, made an extensive tour of India during his early life, visiting shrines and gurus and developing his doctrine of equality of all men. He returned to Palestine in his 29th year and met the same stiff reaction to his socially unacceptable doctrine in his own land as he had among the venerable Brahmins - and was crucified. The Turin Shroud stains prove - since blood does not flow from a dead body - that he was alive when taken down from the Cross. He recovered and returned, together with his mother and St Thomas, to India to preach to the Lost Tribes of Israel, his last hope. He married and lived long - a photo of a direct lineal descendant is shown - and is buried in Kashmir. His tomb can be visited ((and among the list of those who have made the pilgrimage, we find the name of Von Daniken! - Ed.))

The evidence is pretty convincing that a holy man did become venerated by Jewish Kashmiris, who still live in the area, and that he could have been called Jesus or one of its variants. There is some interesting speculation on a possible wholesale mutual borrowing of Christian and Buddhist doctrine and mythology - as well as the obligatory ancient book in an isolated Tibetan monastery. Whether this proves that the Nazarene did all this is another matter. Given the habit of events tending to occur in clumps and remembering the rumours of a contemporaneous 'Jesus' among the Indians of New Mexico, perhaps there were several Jesuses, and the one who got busted got all the publicity.

Well written, and not at all a mystical argument.

Ion Will

Weird America: A Guide to Places of Mystery in the United States, by Jim Brandon (EP Dutton, NY, 1978; $4.95; pp244) -- A lovely book to dip into! Jim Brandon presents all manner of phenomena - UFOs, falls, archeological enigmas, Indian mysteries, petrifactions, errant crocodiles, water monsters, Bigfeet, curios gravestones etc - in a state-by-state tabulation, beginning with sites in Alabama and working through to Wisconsin (including Hawaii, but not Alaska, Puerto Rico or Virgin Islands). Most entries begin with a brief location detail for the benefit of the

traveller - then follow the unadorned facts. By this I mean that Brandon does not adopt a flowery style which so many guidebook writers feel is 'literary', but presents the information in a refreshingly succinct and straightforward manner that still manages to be enthusiastic - Brandon is obviously a discriminating lover of Forteana.

We recommend the book to FT readers, wherever they may be, for the Fortean information it contains transcends any national boundary or purely local interest - although there is a growing tourist market for curiosa. For the researcher, though, an index would have been a very worthwhile addition, or at the very least a short index of phenomena types - as it is, the book's importance will drive many Forteans to compile their own or face the alternative of much time-consuming page-flicking for that fascinating case you know is in there somewhere. Some sources are given in the text, but a source list or bibliography would have been nice too!

Despite these criticisms, this is definitely a book to get.

RJMR/JB

Beyond the Body: The Human Double, by Benjamin Walker (RKP, 1977; £1.95; pp224, bib, index) -- A new paperback edition of a book first published in 1974, and a welcome reissue. All aspects of out-of-the-body experiences are described and analysed, including the act of projection and the various methods claimed to achieve this. Here also are psychological, metaphysical and scientific insights, plus data from folklore, anthropology, occultism and psychic research. The result is a complete view of the out-of-the-body problem (sometimes called 'Astral Projection'). An especially good introduction to a fascinating subject.

JB

Compassion Yoga: The Mystical Cult of Kuan Yin, by John Blofeld (Unwin Paperbacks, 1977; £1.95; pp158) -- John Blofeld has a wide following for his perceptive and evocative writings about Chinese Buddhism and Taoism - and this compact offering about the thoroughly neglected cult of the Goddess/ Bodhisatva Kuan Yin, does some small justice in helping Westerners understand one of the most universally respected religious and mystical images of the Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan world. In the inimatable oriental fashion the image of Kuan Yin is a complex mixture of popular Taoism, abstract occult philosophy, Buddhist metaphysics, and local legends of a compassionate Queen of Heaven in lands from Tibet to Japan. Blofeld here makes a plea for a return to a devotional religious stance in personal life, and outlines meditational practices centered on this extremely attractive and moving symbol of the positive, intuitive, emotional, compassionate feminine principle, so sadly exiled from this world that values the opposites of these qualities. As usual, Blofeld illustrates his exposition with accounts of his early travels in China and his conversations and lessons at the hands (and feet) of scholars, hermits, priests and ordinary folk. For me these glimpses into a world banished by time and history are worth the price of the book alone, fragments of a worldview we are just begining to recognise that is quite different, but in no way inferior, to our own way of interpreting both the everyday and the special wonders that surround us.

RJMR

Man into Wolf: An Anthropological Interpretation of Sadism, Masochism and Lycanthropy, by Robert Eisler (Ross-Erikson, Santa Barbara, Ca, 1978; $3.95; pp263, index) -- What an astonishing and awesome piece of research and writing! The centerpiece is an extremely compact paper on the cultural and psychological significance and role of violence, pain and bizarre behaviour - a model of exposition which condenses views of evolution, history, culture, and psychology,both normal and abnormal, into a mere 30 pages. Then follow nearly 200 pages of notes which boggle the mind with their range and depth, with full references. The book closes with five equally valuable appendices: on Jung's archetypes and Neo-Lamarckism; the woman-beating cult-ritual of ancient Rome, and its modern equivalents; flagellation in the Dionysian mysteries; the vampirism of John George Haigh; and on berserk-rage (which includes the type of behaviour described in our 'Compulsions' section on p7 this issue). One of the main threads in Eisler's argument relates to the pan-cultural traditions of berserkers, vampires, werewolves, ghouls, 'mass-murderers' and other extremes of behaviour which have always been extra-ordinary enough to be considered outside normal considerations of morality and behaviour and more in the realm of divine or demonic possession and madness. An introduction by Donald Lathrop puts this study in a direct relationship with contemporary behaviour curiosities and

an up-to-date social context. For the insights into curiosities of human behaviour and what Fort might have called were-humans, and its implications for some strange phenomena and folklore, this book cannot be recommended too highly to all scholars.

RJMR

The Lambton Worm, by Paul Screeton (Zodiac House, 7 Hugon Rd, Fulham, London SW6 3EL, 1978; £2.10; pp72, bib) - Woven around the full text of 'The Lambton Worm' - a folkpoem celebrating a famous local dragon - Paul Screeton tells of the many Northumberland dragon legends and the local dragon-slayers, themes that abound in British folklore. He also includes a useful chapter on possible origins and influences on the symbol of the dragon and its death at the hands of a solar hero. A valuable study, nice to read and a pleasure to have to hand.

God's Weapon, by David Medina (Privately published at: 6 Grant Court, 18 Spencer Hill, London SW19 4NY, 1978; £1.00; pp80, bib, index) - a study of the manufacture, use and history of the 'Ark of the Covenant' in some detail. Medina argues that the Ark gave off radiation and electrical discharges, the plans for which seem to have originated off this planet! An interesting and still enigmatic story.

USEFUL REISSUES IN PAPERBACK

The Ancient Mysteries Reader, by Peter Haining (Sphere, 1978; 2 vols, 85p each; pp220 & 176) -- famous short stories on the phenomenal themes of Hollow Earth, lost races, lost continents, ancient sites, gods from the skies, etc. A good read.

The Sufis, by Idries Shah (Star,1977; £1.95; pp404, notes)-- Shah's great classic on Sufi teachings, about enlightenment and their view of cosmology and phenomenology; plus descriptions of the Sufi orders, methods and teachers.

A Field Guide to the Little People, by Nancy Arrowsmith and George Moorse (Pan, 1978; 95p; pp297, notes, index, bib, drawings) -- more whimsical than Katherine Briggs' Dictionary of Fairies but still a useful introduction and guide to the varieties of 'Gentry' in most European countries.

The Undiscovered Country, by Stephen Jenkins (Abacus, 1978; £1.75; pp269, index, notes) -- a fascinating overview of Forteana, UFOs, fairies, monsters etc by a historian, who has 3 oriental languages, received Buddhist instruction in Mongolia, and puts in much intelligent synthesis.

Circles & Standing Stones, by Evan Hadingham (Abacus, 1978; £1.95; pp268, notes, illus, photos, gazeteer, index) -- one of the first of the better reviews of 'alternative archeology', the mysteries of the megalithic ruins, astroarcheology, 'earth mysteries' and leys. A good book to start interest.

Children of the Universe, by H von Ditfurth (Futura 1977; £1.25; pp301, photos, illos) - translated from German, subtitled 'The Tale of our Existence' and considered "enthralling reading" by von Daniken. You have been warned.

The Key, by John P Cohane (Fontana, 1977; 80p; pp224,bib, index photos) - covers von Daniken-type material but from a novel and illuminating angle - the key of the title is etymology and language - scattering fascinating asides in the journey through the world's antiquities and ancient cultures. Recommended.

The Secret of the Gods by ET Stringer (Abacus,1976; £1.25; pp264, notes, bib, index, photos, illus)- a reknowned biologist and climatologist expounds his view of the way life functions on every level from the tiniest element up to the all-inclusive universal total, in a fascinating fusion of the sciences with fringe and Fortean concepts.

journals

We would be obliged if readers writing to addresses or answering adverts found in our pages would say they saw the information in *Fortean Times*. It helps us spread the word, and judge the effectiveness of these services.

Pursuit 42 (Spring 1978): articles on settlement in space, skyquakes, quake-lights; 'Witchcraft & Weather modification' pt1, by George M Eberhart; 'The Concept of Simultaneity', plus some 'synchronicity' experiments you can do while listening to radio or reading a book!; frozen mammoths; 'The Transformist Myth', a critique of Darwinism; critique of Berlitz's Without a Trace, and his reply; brief notes. Pursuit has become both progressive and impressive over the last few issues, and is very worthwhile. For details write to SITU, Membership Services, RFD 5, Gales Ferry, CT 06335, USA.

Lantern 21 (Spring 1978): Bee-lore; 2 'fire-balls' from 1890, and one from 1977; UFO reports; more by editor Ivan

Bunn on his Black Dog research; news & reviews. Lantern 22 (Summer 1978): East Anglian field names; the Secret Tunnels of Norfolk & Suffolk; UFO reports, notes and reviews. Lantern is the organ of the Borderline Science Investigation Group of East Anglia covering UFOs, Forteana and folklore etc locally. UK sub: 85p/year - Overseas rates available. Write: Lantern, 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4RZ.

Page Research - not only have they changed their name to UFO Information Network (UFOIN, not to be confused with the British group of the same initials), but I must apologise to them for the inconvenience caused by getting their details horribly wrong. Their Newsletter on Forteana and UFOs is $6.00 for six issues; and catalogues of news and used books on UFO and Fortean topics come with the Newsletter or with book orders. UK readers will find UFOIN an invaluable source for US material and even some rare and out-of-print material. Send $6.00 to UFOIN: Box 5012, Rome, Ohio 44085, USA.

Specula 1:2 (Mar/June 1978): if you are interested in the sort of material and approach discussed in Tom Bearden's article this issue (p14), then you'll be doubly interested in Specula, the journal of the new Assoc. of Meta-Science, formed by Tom and others. It contains news and notes on this distinctive approach to subjects from psychic healing and UFOs to Bigfeet and Life energies...has a big article by Tom on psychotronic weapons. For details write: AAMS, Box 1182, Huntsville, AL 35801, USA.

Journal of Occult Studies 1:2 (Spring 1978): This astonishinly valuable journal has established a quality reputation,in only 2 issues, for practical research and theory monographs. This issue contains 'Systematic Investigation of Allegedly Haunted House with Infrared Documentation'; psychokinetic experiments; thumb-size and palm-lines in relation to dominant personality characteristics; personality tests correlated with astrology; analysis of the Aletti psychic photograph; Tom Bearden with more on what he calls 'Species meta-psychology'; report of a parapsychology conference with Matthew Manning. JOS is $8.50/yr for USA, overseas $12.00/yr. JOS, Occult Studies Foundation, Box 32, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881, USA.

Journal of Meteorology 3:39 (May/June 1978): indispensable to the serious Fortean as a monthly record of weather and climatic freaks - this issue includes a listing of disasters for March 1978, mystery noises, tornadoes, and other notes. For details write: JMet, Cockhill House, Trowbridge BA14 9BG.

Nessletter 27 (April 1978), a monthly newsletter from the Ness Information Service, with latest details of expeditions, discoveries, sightings and personalities. $7.00/£1.75/yr. From: Rip Hepple, Huntshieldford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Aukland, Co Durham.

Res Bureaux Bulletin conducted triweekly by Mr X. One of the best Fortean newsletters around - but not for mass circulation. Mr X will exchange for journals or material. RBB: Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 5C8.

Forteana 5: a Danish Fortean newspaper-format quarterly covering all topics of Forteana, plus reviews - in Danish. Write Scanfo: Classensgade 8, Dk 2100 Kobenhaven Ø, Denmark.

Kadath - a glossy, impressive, serious journal on 'forgotten' civilisations and their artifacts. Bimonthly, in French. Write for details to: Kadath, 6 Blvd Saint-Michel, B-1150 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Looking Glass - an intriguing conspiracy/symbolism/synchronicity/word-game newsletter, eruditely edited by Michael A Hoffman. He asks for an SASE from US readers - but interested UK & other readers had better inquire first. From Michael A Hoffman, Box 343, Geneva, NY 14456, USA.

Energy Unlimited - the flyer announcing this new mag mentions all kinds of Fortean topics, including Tesla research, UFO propulsion systems, psychotronics, alchemy, holography etc etc. Sounds fascinating. Quarterly; $15.00 for 4 issues, plus $2.50 surface post, or $6.00 airmail. EU, Dept MBRB, 3562 Moore St, Los Angeles, CA 90066, USA.

Unusual News - a newspaper-format round-up of recent Forteana. Write for details: UN, c/o L Syrinda Kaplan, Box 12181, Cincinnati, OH 45212, USA.

The Ley Hunter 80: the essential magazine for those interested in Earth Mysteries and study of archeoastronomy,

leys etc. This issue is a special on 'ancient America' with contributions from John Michell, 'Prehistoric Earth Sculpture'; Dr EC Krupp on 'Uxmal Alignments'; Francis Hitching on 'Megalithic America'; plus pieces on US forms of leys, earth-forces, dragons and of course Mystery Hill, from Hoult, Lonegren, Pettis, Ross and Rothovius. A splendid issue on a neglected area of collective discussion. Bimonthly: £2.70 in UK & Europe; £4.00/$8.00 overseas airmail. TLH: Box 152, London N10 1EP. For the convenience of FT readers, TLH may be ordered via us.

Ancient Skills & Wisdom Review - a quarterly journal and book review newsletter on Fortean, UFO and Earth Mystery subjects: £2.00/yr. From Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT.

Paranormal & Psychic Australian 3:6 (June 1978): We have discovered this excellent and recommended review of Australian Forteana, UFOs and psychic phenomena rather late, but now that we have established links you should be hearing more of P&PA. Monthly, Australian $12.00/yr. This issue contains: 'Strange Aboriginal Beings'; living globes of UFO light; 'I met a Min-Min globe', a curious 'ball-light' encounter in which the figure of a small humanoid materialised or coalesced; plus many illustrated notes and news. P&PA: Box 19, Spit Junction, NSW 2088, Australia.

FSR 23:6 (April 1978): the Stonehenge incident; encounter at Rainford; humanoids at Stack Rock, Pembs; 'Man-in-Black Syndrome'; and pts 1&2 of one of the most astonishing cases in recent years, right here on the outskirts of London, the 'Aveley Abduction'. 24:1 (June 1974): pt3 of the amazing abduction case at Aveley; 'Boxcar' over Preston; encounters on a Yorks moor; landings in Estonia; 'Did humanoids kill these men?'; 'Bent Spoons or Bent Reality?'; and more. FSR: West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

MUFOB ns10 (Spring 1978): continues to make direct contibutions to the reformation of UFO studies. This issue has a fundamentally important article by Donald Johnson on the approach to non-physical UFO evidence; Nigel Watson on the 'Cigar Ship' of 1909; Roger Sandell 'Challenging the Chariots'; plus a review by the editors, on their 10th anniversary, of the changes (or lack of) in ufology in that period; plus notes, reviews and pt15 of Peter Rogerson's catalogue of 'type 1' UFO records. Quarterly, £1.25/$3.00 (air). MUFOB: 11 Beverley Rd, New Malden, Surrey.

Our sincere congratulations to the editors of MUFOB (John Rimmer, Peter Rogerson, Roger Sandell & John Harney) for their consistent pioneering more inclusive approaches to UFO phenomena over their 10 years; and we look forward to another 10, or more!

Watsup Journal - Wessex UFOs and more. No8 has articles on 'The Philadelphia Experiment'; humanoids,from the future?; pt3 of Bermuda Triangle analysis; catalogue of haunted sites in Hampshire pt3; reports, sightings etc. £2.00/yr. WATSUP: 10 Westwood Rd, Southampton.

Earthlink (Spring 1978) journal of Essex UFO Study Group (retitled) - with local sightings, articles etc. EUFOSG: 16 Raydons Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM9 5JR.

Northern UFO News - journal of the Northern UFO Investigators Network, one of the most active of UK groups, which tends to break stories before anyone else. Write to Jenny Randles: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford M30 6NJ.

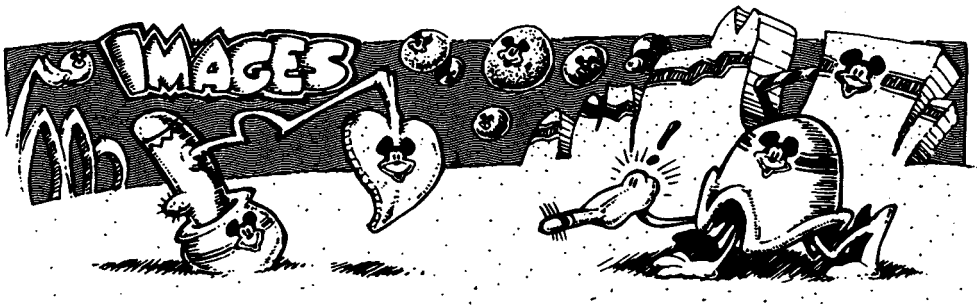
Les Extraterrestres - French glossy UFO coverage - big story on UN debate on UFOs. France 10Frs/ other countries 15Frs. LE: Saint-Denis-les-Rebais, 77510 Rebais, France.

CHAOS: A Review of the Damned

Once again we urge support of Mr X's project to publish Fort's sources and studies of classical Fortean data in a bimonthly serialcalled Chaos. He needs at least 250 subscribers to cover his costs, and surely there must be that many if not seriously interested, then interested enough in the field generally to support a genuine scholarly project?

Subscription details: Full subs - Canada $15.00; USA $13.50; UK £7.00; all other nations remit at the Canadian rate. Annual airmail subs will cost an additional $4.00 (USA); £2.50 (UK); and all other nations Canada $2.50. Single copies - Canada $2.00; USA $2.00; UK £1.00; all other nations Canada $2.00.

Send to: Mr X, Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5C8, Canada; or write for more information.



THE SHAMOKIN IMAGE

Largely ignored by the British press, an image of a face, said by many to be the face of Christ seen on an altar cloth, has been drawing attention and pilgrims to the town of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, for over a year.

It was first noticed by Rev Frank Knutti, rector of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, in Shamokin, who said he became aware of an "unusual presence" in the sanctuary as he read his Breviary, around midnight on Maundy Thursday 1977, which that year fell on 7th April. He says, in the first local reports of the event (1): "The church was empty - the last watchers before the Altar of Repose had left - but I felt a strong certainty I was not alone. I glanced around the church but saw nothing unusual until I turned toward the altar. There on the linen cloth surrounding the ciborium containing the Blessed Sacrament, I beheld the face of Jesus." He called his wife and daughter and they too saw the image, and for the next week or so "many of our members and a few non-members have witnessed this miraculous vision."

One of these members, Mrs Marvin Beck, said that while she was engaged in private prayer before the altar, she noticed "a very bright light" around the ciborium. "As the light changed, I could clearly see the figure of the Lord, both kneeling and standing. I could see his long hair and the wound in the palm of His hand. It was a beautiful sight." (1)

Looking at the handful of clippings in front of me now, it's interesting to see how quickly the myth-making processes began, and the events which have already become legend. I have here a clipping from just before Easter this year, ie nearly a year after the first appearance of the image. In it, apart from the news that the image appears as strong as (some insist stronger than) before, the image was said to have vanished from Good Friday (8th) until the Wednesday after Easter (13th), and that according to the testimony of Mrs Helen Keiser, she and other parishioners were with Knutti, that Maundy night, when the face first appeared. For several days, she says, they kept their thoughts to themselves for fear of being branded religious fanatics. (6) I suppose such a divergence from the first account (quoted above) is to be expected after a year...and I rather think Mrs Keiser's recollection must have been from the early part of the hiatus, which in turn could be seen as a time in which the witnesses were quietly thinking over what they had seen.

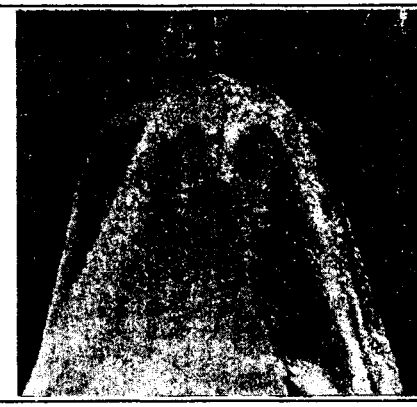
Whatever, the first of the subsequent viewings by thousands of people since, occurred on that Wednesday after Easter, the 13th April, when, in the grand tradition of the Emperor's Clothes, a child dared to say aloud what many found hard to acknowledge even in their hearts. Iris Reigle, aged 9, in the church with her grandmother, Mrs Clarence Fegley, tugged at her grandmother's dress to "come and see God's face." Mrs Fegley said: "At first I couldn't see anything except the altar, the flowers and the tabernacle. Then, as I looked more closely at the veil, I too could plainly see...the face of Jesus." (1) Iris was quickly sent to fetch her parents and others from the Parish House where they were gathering after that evenings prayers, "and each of them saw the face on the veil covering the tabernacle. With one accord," adds Mrs Fegley, "we knelt in prayer and wonderment...to see this miraculous revelation." (1) The next day, at Mass, the whole congregation saw the face - some saw a full figure - on the cloth though apparently "less distinct." The news spread rapidly far and wide, attracting the curious, the TV and press crews, and in their wake, the bus-loads of pilgrims. Rev Knutti started to hold regular healing services - and although

he must be under much strain from callers at all hours of the night, a church so perpetually crammed with lookers that it can't be cleaned properly and help is needed to herd the crowd out to close the doors at night, and the darker side with the inevitable souvenir-snatchers and commercial hustlers, the gallant reverend "seems to radiate a strong inner peace that wasn't evident before." (6)

Thinking further about the Rev Knutti's and other statements about the first sightings, we note something he said in another interview (5)...that he saw the image for the first time on the Thursday midnight, but that he was unable to see it again until the child, Iris, saw after the following Wednesday's service. Our source (6) in describing the girl's vision (in error, they say she was calling her mother) use the telling words: "It was the voice of a young child which finally brought the image into focus." Of course it may be that Rev Knutti himself is psychic, for in his original statement about his midnight sighting he hints that he had seen something like this image before: "He was facing me - just as He did at the same time and in the same place two years ago." (1)

The Church, contrary to popular belief, measures a 'miracle', not so much by the number of natural laws it confounds, but by the way it reinforces the fundamental dogma and kindles faith. This is certainly happening in Shamokin. Knutti says his congregation has burgeoned from a mere 60, to a good portion of the quarter of a million who have visited the church in the last year, many from overseas, in what he calls "a world-wide parish". The event, too, has unified the local congregation - previously they squabbled like anyone else. There have been healings, and many have written to Knutti to say how their lives have changed for the better. One man, deaf for years, attended only to accompany his wife. He remained in a pew while she knelt at the altar. Suddenly he felt an "inner explosion" in his ears, and heard a buzzing. With awe he realized the sound was people talking. (6)

As in previous cases of spontaneous images (see FT7p11 (the Castelnau-de-Guers face-of-Christ, also on a ciborium napkin), FT10pp5-10, and FT18pp3-5) we note the curious detail that different folk are seeing different images...in this case a full face and both kneeling and full figures. One visitor - a religious scholar - said the face resembled that of the Turin Shroud. We present here the best photos we have - not very good at all - with a detail of the Turin face for comparison. Although I cannot see any organising pattern that might be a face in these photos, the testimany of thousands cannot be dismissed, even if they seem to be discribing different images. In this context we include the following statement from Fortean researcher Larry Arnold, who went to Shamokin to join the queue to see what he would see.



"Most visitors reported seeing the face of Jesus full-front (head-on). This view we also discerned - but there was more. We perceived two profiles: one looking to the right and upwards; the other, cranium draped in a shawl, was facing left and looking downwards. Both these images were superimposed on the 'normal' face reported by others. We asked one of the church's deacons if anyone else had reported this multiple-image effect and he said the left-facing (profile) had been mentioned by a few, but no-one else had reported the right-facing figure. Additionally, we noted a feminine figure that can best be described by alluding to the standard representation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Again, this figure was draped in a shawl (which seemed blue) and manifested the most plaintive expression of sorrow with an offering of compassion. Two companions, as well as ourself, also commented on the reddish-orange glow sporadically discernable near the center of the altar cloth. It was quite apparent that the 3 of us were seeing things not discerned by most of the 100-or-so observers at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church that Sunday afternoon. We wonder of course whether others had seen even more than we, and not reported it...

Larry E Arnold."

Of course, there's a joker in every pack - at Shamokin, up popped a character calling himself Abbot David Schott, of an "independent Catholic" community at St Jude's Abbey, Delmar, Maryland. Schott claimed to have reproduced an identical image by using lights and shadows in the altar cloth. He was even able to turn it into an image of the Virgin Mary "and an alligator." (huh?) On the pretext of sounding a warning to many people not to spend their savings in the expectation of a miracle healing or whatever, he felt he had to urge caution. "There's nothing to say it is a miracle," he said, and as if it were a spell to ward off sudden lynching, he quickly added, "...and nothing to say it isn't." He went to see Bishop Stevenson, of the Central Pennsylvania Diocese to get an official bucket of cold water put on the affair, but the Bishop refused, saying he had no evidence of trickery at all. Schott complained that Knutti refused to allow him near the cloth, or to conduct a blessing service (both of which he was perfectly entitled to do in his own church). Schott and a few "colleagues" hung about for a few days trying to get evidence of trickery - first he alleged that altar cloths imprinted with an image of Christ could be purchased from church supply catalogues (not true, said the Bishop); then he alleged that a light to one side of the church was not turned on because, he said, it would "erase" the image if it were (Mrs Pat Knutti, the rector's wife, said the light has always been on.) (4) It's plain that no-one at Shamokin, or elsewhere, had any time for Schott. The Archbishop of the RC Diocese of Delaware said St Jude's Abbey was not a "legitimate order". "They advertise themselves as Catholic and non-denominational, they wear Franciscan-style robes and use Catholic trappings in their services." Schott admitted that his order still uses the Latin Mass - no wonder he was barely tolerated! (4) Better than TV!

A final note on the face on the cloth. It's natural, of course, to think of the face as the byproduct of light and shade on folds, but despite a concensus against moving the cloth, Knutti removes and replaces it over the ciborium at least twice a day, during morning and evening services. He admits he feared to move it too, to begin with. "Too many people were asking me what we had behind the veil, and I decided if it really was the work of our Lord, moving the veil wouldn't change it." (2,3) ...and it hasn't. Witnesses say the image "looks the same."

Shamokin, Penn, News-Item (1) 15 April 1977, (2) 23 April, (3) 28 April, (4) 5 May 1977; (5) Indonesia Times 23 April 1977; (6) Harrisburg, Penn, Sun-

day Patriot-News 5 March 1978. (Cr: source 5 to Ion Will, all other, with grateful thanks to Larry Arnold.)
Also: Houston Post 21 April 1977 (Cr: Kurt Lothmann.)

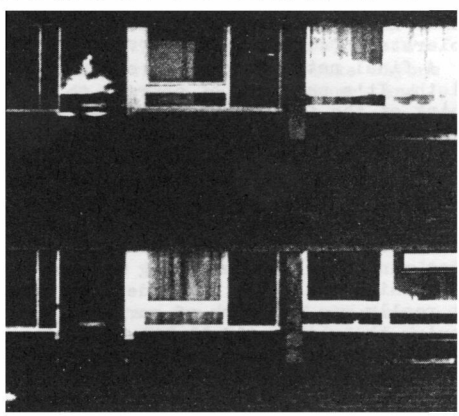
SPONTANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES

The last time we mentioned images that spontaneously appear on film was back in FT18 - and we've collected a few since then - and others are being investigated. Here then is a selection of Fortean photos:

Mrs Lena Cheeseman, of Kings Cross, London, wrote to the magazine Weekend, saying that on the balcony of flats opposite hers she can see the ghostly figure of an old woman in a nightdress. Neighbours could see it too. Her son investigated but could find nothing to account for it. Weekend sent along their photographer, Clifford Kent, and he too saw the shimmering figure, and the photo below is the product of a minute's exposure of his camera. After taking the photo, he went and examined the door and balcony of the flat - it was empty and he too could find no explanation for the figure (which could only be seen from elsewhere.) Nor did he see any lights which might be causing reflections. Weekend 10 October 1973 (Cr: Cathy Purcell, Ivan Bunn.)

During New Year's Eve revelry, to usher in 1976, at the Plough Inn, Eastbury, near Newbury, Berks, landlord Ken Thackway borrowed David Pounds' Polaroid camera to snap the revellers. Over a week later, Ken and his wife Gladys noticed that the one taken of David himself and another person (*below right*) seemed to show a ghostly white face to the right of the picture above David's left elbow. Matters became even more interesting when another customer said they recognised the face in the photo as that of Violet Cotterill, the daughter of a former owner of the pub, who died a bed-ridden cripple in 1945, and was buried in the churchyard opposite. The Thackways, who had only been in residence for almost a year, had suspected the pub was haunted - Mrs Thackway said she had seen faces at windows, including the face said to be Violet Cotterill's in the pub's front door window. The newspaper suggested the face could have been formed from a camera flash bouncing off the gloss-painted wall...but the angles involved seem to me quite wrong, even if we knew whether a flash was used with the Polaroid, which we don't. At the time the story appeared, I decided to approach the people involved through the newspaper, but got nowhere. If I remember rightly I was told the Thackways no longer had the photo and that they had been pestered so much that further enquiries would be unwelcome. Perhaps someone else might like to pursue this, and keep us informed. Newbury Weekly News 15 Jan 1976.

The following letter appeared in Reveille 23 April 1976 (hmmm lots of 23s this issue too!) from Joseph Leatherbarrow, of Morpeth, Northumberland: "A photographer friend was asked to take pictures of a woman's grave after her funeral. When he delivered the pictures the woman's daughter became very upset and accused him of 'some kind of joke". For there among the flowers and wreaths was the face of her mother.



Seen and photographed - the Kings Cross phantom (top left), Weekend.

David Pounds & ghostly face, (enlargement from Newbury W News).

The photographer had never met the mother, nor even known the family before being given the order. Nobody could explain the phantom face." (Cr: N Watson)

6½ months after the first visions at Shamokin, 2,000 people attended a healing service in St Anthony's RC church, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, presided over by Rev Ralph DiOrio - Sunday 30 October 1977. According to several eyewitnesses including a nun and a policeman, a woman took some Polaroid colour photos of the proceedings, and on one photo of DiOric blessing a supplicant a faint image of a robed figure could be discerned behind the priest and above him to one side. The policeman, William Barrett, described the robe as white and the figure with blue eyes, a beard and arms extended. "In the right corner of the photograph was a faded image of Christ," said Barrett. "It was a real plain apparition, but faded compared to the side with Father DiOrio on it." The rest of the account goes on to describe DiOrio's brand of healing fireworks, full of fervour and speaking in tongues...and the healings apparently accomplished. DiOrio seems quite a showman. A young boy, who claimed his deafness had gone, was scooped up as he cried in relief, and taken by the priest toward the Boston TV station's cameras. DiOrio "told him to look at the cameras and raise his arms in praise to the Lord," which he did. So much for spontaneity! However that's all we know about the picture - and we'll definitely try to find out more. Worcester Telegram, Mass, 31 October 1977 (Cr: Loren Coleman.)

During a roaring fire which destroyed the United Methodist Church in the small Michigan community of Bear Lake, on 22 October 1977, a couple of strange events took place. As 78yr-old parishioner Laila Cooley watched the blaze from her nearby home, she saw, in the clouds of smoke the figure she is certain was Christ carrying a lamb - for 30 minutes she watched it fade and reappear. "It was very clear to me that the apparition was there, looking down on the people," Mrs Cooley said. "There is no question in my mind because it kept reappearing. If I had seen it once I would have thought it was just imagination. But it kept coming back again and again." The next morning at a meeting of the congregation, she told of her vision. All this is interesting enough, and guaranteed to keep a small community buzzing for months, but our present concern is the second curiosity to come out of that fire, apparantly an appearance of the opposition party. It transpires that Wayne R Wissner had taken several photos of the fire, and after developing them a week later he discovered a strange figure silhouetted against one of the blazing windows (see below). Probably in reaction to Mrs Cooley's vision, the folks at Bear Lake believe it was Old Nick himself. Wissner says: "My blood ran cold when I saw the strange figure. When I took the photograph, I saw nothing that could explain it. There was nothing leaning against the inside wall of the church because the floor had collapsed. It really does look like the Devil." The

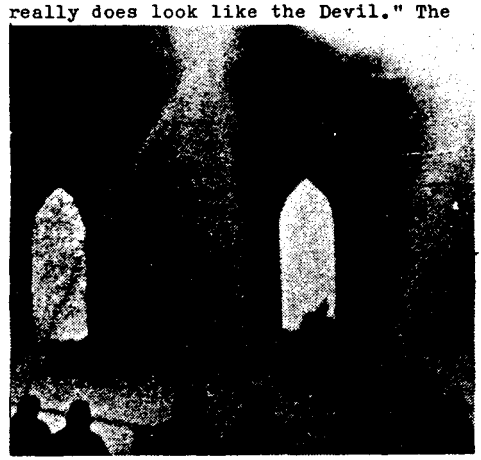


photo was the second in a series of 3 taken at 1/25sec, one second apart, and the other two show no figure. It seems logical, I suppose, that if bearded and robed figures are generally interpreted as Christ, then a dark figure in flames would be seen as Satan. These types of events raise some major issues of great interest - by what processes do meaningful images manifest spontaneously on film; how do people perceive apparitions; how do we attatch meanings to perceptions; and is it possible that these images and apparitions are associated with personalities living or dead? Story and photo from National Enquirer 7 March 1978.

These questions, of course, have been raised since the begining of spirit photography, and since the first apparition, and we still have no universally acceptable answers. The phenomenon cares not one jot for our dilemma and continues to manifest. Consider the drama over an identity card photo that Wendy Sternberg, of Buffalo State College, had taken in a photo-booth, back

in 1974. As you can see below, behind her head to the right is the profile of an old man or woman. As Wendy had a flat screen immediately behind her, and the booth was open to a line of waiting students, there seems no possibility of anyone actually being in the position suggested by the image. The

photo was investigated by the infamous Committee for Investigation of Claims for the Paranormal, led by Dr Paul Kurtz. Kurtz's opinion (considered or not) is that it is the profile of George Washington from the quarter coin -- however Kurtz is at a loss to explain how it happened: "We don't know..." but suggest that "somehow" a coin was pressed against the film. If that's the sort of explanations the Committee are favoring, frankly, I'd prefer the more aesthetically satisfying notion of ghosts! Incidentally, when I first saw the original caption to the photo I misread the abbreviation for identity card as implying this was a photo of the girl's id...and therein lies another theory... From Midnight Globe 25 April 1978.

Finally, I have two miscellaneous notes which have dark implications for UFO photos, indeed photography generally, if there is any truth in them. Firstly, according to John Reeves, of Ashurst Wood, Sussex, the area was due for a massive invasion of UFOs in Sept 1976. We can't tell whether it was or not but John is convinced that he can see great numbers of them in the skies even though no one else can see them. And, he says, he has many photos to prove it. We are interested in his method of photographing UFOs: "Just point your camera at the pole star and sometimes you get a clear picture with UFOs in." (!) East Grinstead Observer either 2 or 9 Sept 1976 (Cr: A Cromarty) Similarly we have a brief note about an unscheduled image that appeared on film in an automatic camera at an unnamed rocket-motor testing station somewhere in the UK Midlands. Between the end of one test and the next the camera should have been photographing clear sky, and instead picked up an unidentified object. It looked like a highly-luminous object with a tail of brilliant stars and was likened to a "plucked ostrich neck". Experts said it had nothing to do with the tests, and examination of the film could not account for it. Too much vagueness about this story as it stands - anyone know any more? New Sunday Times, Malaysia, 10 July 1977.

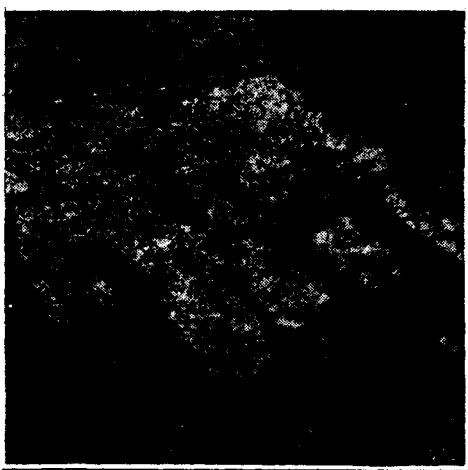
HOLYGRAMS - AND OTHERS...

By the term 'Holygram' - cleverly coined by our pal Ion Will - we mean body images like the Turin Shroud. In the last year the Shroud has received much attention, and deserves a whole article - but for a recent good exposition see the article by Ian Wilson in the Sunday Times Magazine 26 March 1978, previewing his imminent book on the subject. For now, we'll give two cases that recently came to our attention.

At 7.10pm on 1 Oct 1977, a busy Saturday evening in Brakpan, South Africa, a man was knocked down and critically injured by a car. He was taken to the Far East Rand Hospital, in Springs, where he died at 8.30pm. He was later identified as Dirk Esterhuizen, aged 32. A regrettable but not unusual occurrence these days - the weirdness comes in its wake. Esterhuizen had been laid on a trolley bed which had a rubber sheet between a linen sheet and the mattress. When mortuary attendants came to remove his body they found a life-size image of the dead man imprinted onto the mattress. Hospital staff called to witness the phenomenon said there was no image on the linen sheet (which was "a hotch-potch of bloodstains"), nor on the rubber sheet (though one source seems to suggest the image was on the

rubber mattress cover and not on the mattress). Apparently no amount of scrubbing will remove the image which include a representation of parts of clothing, a pen-top in the shirt pocket. And even weirder, the right arm and left leg are hazy, corresponding to fractures in the body. Dr J Botha, head of physics at Johannesburg General Hospital said that to his knowledge this image could not have been caused by any of the radioactive or Xray treatments used medically. The last we heard was that the case was under investigation by Prof JJF Taljaard, head of forensic medicine at the University of Witwatersrand. The Star, South Africa, 8 Oct 1977, Rand Daily Mail, SA, 13 Oct 1977, The Guardian 14 Oct 1977 (Cr: Chris Holtzhausen, Ian Thompson, Roger Sandell.)

A similar but less dramatic image is told of in the National Enquirer 26 Oct 1976. The image of a man's left hand as seen from the back appeared on a crushed velour bedspread owned by Mrs Irene Rogers, of Newport, Arkansas, on 1 Aug 1976. She says: "I was making the bed, and threw the spread back on - and there it was." Chemical tests stumped various experts who tried to duplicate the effect of the image. According to Dr John Beadles, Dept. Biological Sciences, Arkansas State University: "The fibers on the print are all lying down or twisted but none has been burned or scorched - which rules out the possibility that a plastic impression was used." Charles Beasley, manager of Sharon Rug Mills, manufacturers of the bedspread, was equally baffled. It was clearly not a freak product of the manufacturing process, he said after investigation. "I have no idea how this could have happened. It would take many tons of pressure - enough to crush a hand - to produce this effect." The image (see below left) shows wrinkles, knuckles, fingernails, and the shadow of a ring clearly visible - and the thumb appears to be slightly deformed. Mrs Rogers, herself, is convinced it's a sign from her late husband, Travis, who died of liver cirrhosis, the previous November. The Rogers had been married and divorced twice and Irene said: "He kept coaxing me to remarry him right up until he died. Travis had a lot of spirit. This might be his way of letting me know that he's thinking about me." A clincher, if you believe in such things, is the fact that Travis Rogers had a deformed thumb after a baseball injury. (Cr: G Abbott).



And finally, a lasting impression! Apologies for the pun...but here's an image, claimed by many to portray Christ, has appeared on the sole of a shoe, is attracting thousands of pilgrims to a Dominican convent near Quebec. The image was noticed by mystified churchmen who were unable to force a dead priest's left leg into his coffin - it says here - until the shoe was removed. (Died with his boots on eh?) Sunday People 9 July 1978.

SPONTANEOUS IMAGES IN NATURE

The following notes are a random assortment of curious images that have arisen in a natural context.

In Phenomena (p60) John Michell and I tell of a hen that laid eggs bearing designs, apparently on command from her owner who visualised the desired pattern in her mind. And in FT3p18 we told a similar story of a hen in Arkansas (hmmm Arkansas seems good for imagery) which laid an egg with a neatly printed 6 on one end. Well we've just found lurking at the bottom of the file a note from the Daily Express 23 March 1965, that a star hen on a farm at Rushall, Staffordshire, laid an egg with the letters 'WX' imprinted on it.

Another letter - this time in the News of the World 20 Nov 1977, from Lucy Wade: "My sister, a brilliant child artist, died young. Later I was sitting by a steamed-up window. As the steam cleared I was amazed to see a drawing of a face appear on the window. It was the same face my sister had once drawn in an art competition!"

The picture below received some publicity in the USA, but as it may be new to readers elsewhere we include it here. It seems that the most sacred of Sioux

rituals, the Horse Dance, representing the coming together of the Sioux Nation, whose 'circle' was broken by the shameful massacre at Wounded Knee, was danced at Waterloo, Nebraska, early June 1976. The next day a weather satellite took this photo of clouds over the USA.

According to Omaha weatherman Benny Gullach, who discovered this amazing 'Indian chief' image in the cloud-pattern, the figure "appears to be looking over toward Wounded Knee." Omaha World Herald 18 June 1976 (Cr: Joe Swatek.)

THREE-HANDED MADONNA

Every so often we hit some events which give us an extra tingle, though in all fairness we oughtn't to have favourites, we are after all human (or think we are!) Here's one... During a Mass in the Greek Orthodox church in the small town of Madaba, south of Amman, Jordan, on the morning of Sunday 29 Jan 1978 a miracle was witnessed by a large congregation. According to a translated local report, the people saw "A dark shadow and then a blue light encompass the icon of the Virgin Mary, and then a third hand appeared on the icon behind the infant Jesus. The congregation immediately started praying and praising God and the Virgin Mary after witnessing this miraculous change!" We managed to locate a photo of the transformed icon (top right) and see there is no hand "behind" the Christ-child figure - instead logic insists the recent appendage to be one of those on the left hand side, probably the lower one.

There are a couple of interesting additional points. The AP report adds that in the congregation at the time was Nasima Amatonios, a nun "reputed to have performed miracles in Lebanon and Syria in 1968". And as far as we can tell, reconstructing from source date, on the very same day, just over

the border into Israel, a calf was born with three mouths (see the cattle subheading in our section on 'Freaks and Curiosities'). It seems as if that day threeness was expressing itself, but we haven't yet located a third triple event for the same day! Assoc Press release 31 Jan 1978, London Evening Standard 1 Feb 1978, Aktuelt, Denmark, 31 Jan 1978 (Cr: Paul Screeton, Ion Will, and Peter Juhl Svendsen of Forteana.)

THE CASE OF THE GLOWING CROSS

Back in my college days I irreverently proposed, for a design project, to manufacture blow-moulded Madonnas and other "grave furniture" on a modular system that allowed design permutations and which could be lit up from below at night. It was turned down. Now, years later, I'm brought face to face with the genuine article - a grave monument that shines out like an ad for Afterlife! I've been sent a number of clippings but seem to have misfiled some (blush!) and so I reconstruct from what I have to hand.

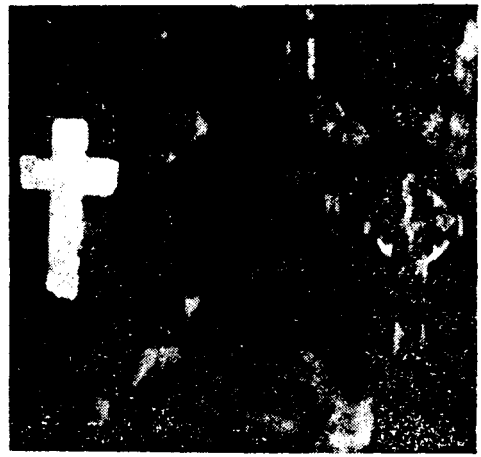
The cross was originally erected to mark the grave of William Thomas Thurling Steenson, a 29yr-old railway guard who died a hero, trying to stop a runaway railway carriage at Mullumbimby station on 23 Sept 1907. The cemetary at Lismore, New South Wales, Australia, was closed in 1971, and many of the monuments, including Steenson's, were relocated further up the hillside. Each night the cross glows brightly, and has attracted regular crowds of the mystif-

ied, the terrified, gawkers and worshippers.

The cross is 2 meters high and made of apparently ordinary monumental granite. An industrial chemist investigated the suggestion that the cross had been coated with barium paint as a joke but analysis of the surface found nothing unusual. The nearest streetlights are nearly a kilometer away - and the cross glows even when the moon is hidden.

Locals, including Steenson's grandson, Neville, aged 55, believe the glowing has gone on nightly for the last 60yrs, even in its old position - but the story only became better known when a group of teenagers, straying into this deserted northern part of Lismore, became frightened by it and reported it to a local paper, in mid-Feb.

Sadly, no sooner had the story been broadcast widely, than vandals, in the night of 20 Feb, tipped the cross over and smashed chunks out of it, probably for souvenirs. Curiously, a prophetic event happened earlier that morning while it was still dark - the streetlights on a nearby bridge unaccountably failed. Daily Mirror, NSW, and Sydney Morning Herald, both 21 Feb 1978, Reveille 9 June 1978 (Cr: Richard King, Mac Lauria, Ion Will). For those interested in such things, Steenson's cross has the Masonic compass and square design engraved on the center! RJMR



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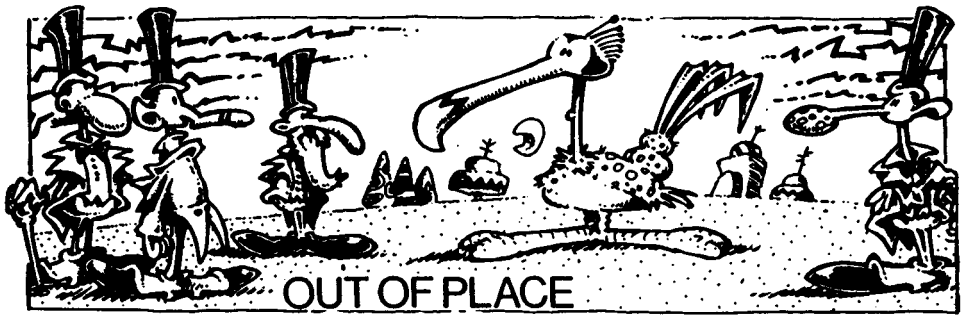


On the subject of Mystery Animals we have several developments of the data presented last issue (FT25pp33-36)...

THE BICKERTON BEAST

Last issue we gave a recent sighting of a large dog-like MA in the Bickerton Hills, Cheshire, from mid-Jan 1978. It seems that we hadn't realised that this MA had been seen before, both in that area and in the pages of FT. See FT9 p20 for an account of the 'thing' that was seen near the Delamere Forest in 1974.

THE 'SURREY' PUMA

Reader Chris Hall found a gap in our Puma record (see FT25p47) and managed to fill it with the following reports. As far as possible we've reconstructed probable sighting times - but our lives would be made much easier if reporters would put in details of time etc...

Sometime during the last couple of days of June and the first two of July 1976, Sally Rose, mother of 3 and journalist, was returning to Hartley Wintney from attending a council meeting in Bracknell in the evening. As she passed Star Hill, on the A30, (an area of Roman roads, army camps, and a name evocative of the similarly army-inhabited, UFO-haunted area near Warminster) the animal crossed the road in front of her car. She says: "I'd swear on oath that I saw the puma or a very large cat-like creature which wasn't like anything I'd ever seen before...I was about 50yds away when my lights picked up what I at first thought was a large dog. It came straight out of the bushes into the road and I stopped. I immediately realised this was no dog, domestic cat or fox - I knew it could only be the Surrey Puma." Without turning its head the animal sauntered across and vanished into the forest on the other side of the road. Mrs Rose describes it as about 2ft 6in tall, 3ft long with a curving tail about 2ft 6in long. It was a sandy beige colour, with short smooth hair and a smallish head, with noticeably large paws. Mrs Rose told police but a search found nothing. A spokesman from Chessington Zoo was moved to comment: "Let's just say it is a puma - it must be getting very close to its maximum lifespan, because these reports have been coming in for about 12 years." We'd guess 16yrs or more! Aldershot News 9 July 1976.

Close on the sighting by Mrs Rose, on 3 July 1976, Mrs Jane Skillicorn, a Yateley schoolteacher, turned off the A30 just before Hartley Wintney, about 10.15pm, and almost ran down a huge "cat-like" fawn-coloured creature, on the Eversley slip roadnear a sawmill. She said: "I was terrified. I saw huge green eyes in my headlights and slammed on my brakes. It was definitely no dog or deer. It was the puma." Police were investigating her story too. Aldershot News 9 July 1976. They were still investigating, and obviously finding nothing. Aldershot News 16 July 1976.

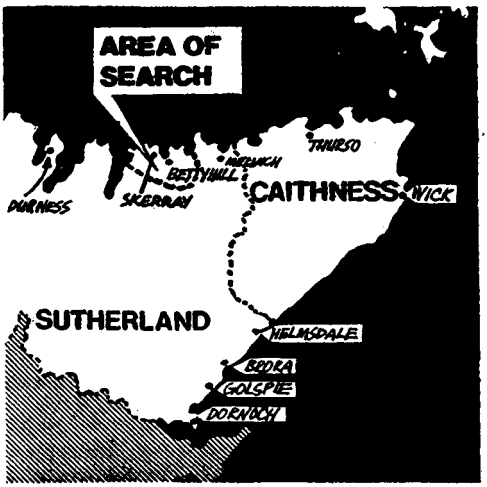
In a rather stupid piece, the same paper from 30 July 1976, tried to jokily explain the recent sightings, and by implication those of the last decade, as those of a large domestic ginger tom owned by the Cruikshanks of Odiham. It was discovered when police looked into a call that a "black puma" was seen in the grounds of Corridor House, next door to the Cruickshanks...though how any one can reconcile the large black cat with a domestic ginger cat I just don't know. Mrs Anne Barnes was hanging out washing in the back garden of Corridor House, High St, Odiham, when she noticed a huge cat watching her. It had frozen in its tracks, just a few yards away from her - after a couple of seconds it jumped a 10ft wall and disappeared into dense woods. Mrs Barnes decided the animal was not just a large cat because it had "huge shoulders like a bear." Although the sighting isn't dated, a reference is made to police still investigating the 2 A30

sightings above, so we'd guess it was sometime in mid-July 1976. Anyone with spare time could get dates and times from the daybooks at Odiham and Fleet police stations. Aldershot News 30 July 1976. (Cr: all above to Chris Hall.)

THE SCOTTISH 'LIONESS'

In giving the story last issue (FT25 p33f) of the livestock depredations and sightings of "a lion or puma" near Bettyhill, on the northernmost coast of Sutherland, we took the story up to 14 Dec 1977, having mislaid (blush!) some clippings sent to us by Jake Williams. They turned up eventually - so on with the story...

It seems police have records of sightings going back 2 years - but following the supposed wounding of the animal (told last issue) on two occasions they were mounting extensive armed searches on the moorlands and heaths near the village of Strathnaver, following the discovery of carcases on 12 Dec 1977.



Thomas Todd, a crofter at Achneiskich, Bettyhill, found one of his sheep dead - its fleece had been removed and its flesh stripped. This was said to be the work of a predator. Mr Todd remembers earlier incidents: "The other morning I discovered paw prints about 3" in diameter in the snow; and I remember about 2 years ago finding a dead ewe which had been defending its lamb. Half its head had been ripped off and I realise now that it must have been this cat when it was younger." Of the present killing, Mr Todd said: "I have never seen anything like it. The skin was removed as cleanly as if it had been professionally skinned. The backbone and top of the skull were still there, but the ribs had been chewed right into the vertebrae. There was very little sign of a struggle...whatever killed the sheep did so very quickly and efficiently." Scott Johnston, a vet called in by the police, said: "In my opinion the killing was the work of a member of the cat family. There is no conclusive proof, but the neatness of the kill, the spacing of the tooth marks and the crushing of the bones all point to a feline predator." Forteans following the gory saga of US cattle mutilations will note the curious detail of the clean "professional" skinning...and that for once we have convincing evidence of MAs linked to depredations.

That same day (12 Dec 1977) in the evening, Donald Mackenzie, of the Dunveaden Guest House, out hunting foxes with his son, shot and wounded a large animal they spotted swimming the River Naver, a mile from Bettyhill. He described the event: "My son Jim saw two red eyes in the river, about 9.30pm. We have permission to hunt foxes at night using a spotlight, and it was this that detected the eyes. The animal got out of the water and I realised what it was. It was about the size of an Alsatian, dark coloured and had a white chest. It ran across the fields and we chased it in the Landrover, but it was moving at incredible speed. I stopped and it stopped. I whistled and it started coming back towards us, so I aimed and fired. It spun round, fell down and got up again, then limped off into the darkness. I think I hit it in the rear end. It was a pity I didn't have my more powerful rifle with me." The Mackenzie's told Sgt Donald Bruce, of Bettyhill police, of their encounter, and having seen Mr Todd's sheep carcase - "I knew it was something different." - he organised the armed searches. He too recalled the time, 2 years earlier "when a couple of English tourists reported seeing a puma...They were very specific in their description and said it was a puma. For some reason their names were not taken, but now I wonder if they hold the key to all this Maybe they let the animal loose because it was growing too big, and they didn't want to pay £300 for a licence to keep it."

Another man, Alistair McLean, a milk man from Skerray, said he saw the creature "a year ago" while fox-hunting with a crofter friend, Hugh MacKay, some of whose sheep had been killed. "It was about lunchtime and we were walking across the moorlands when this animal

got about 40yds in front of us and ran off. I only got a glimpse, but it was broad in the back, strongly built and very fast. I thought it was a dull rusty colour. I was convinced it was big game. Since then it has been seen in Caithness and other areas in Sutherland, and locals have heard its screams in Skerray." Primary school pupil, Jaqueline Carney, told of an animal she saw outside her home at Skerray a month ago. "I was out playing at about 1pm when I saw a large animal in the field below the house. It ran across the park and jumped over the wall. Its face was round and cat-like and it had a long tail. I was quite frightened. I ran in to tell my mother but by then the beast had vanished."

Curiously, the newspaper remarks on the "odd coincidence" that almost exactly a year ago that week, schoolboys from Skerray saw a strange animal molesting sheep, 10 miles from Bettyhill, and one of the boys was James, son of Mr Mackenzie above. In many of the Skerray depredations, the paper said, carcases were found skinned "with all flesh and many bones removed." All these details from The Press & Journal (Aberdeen) 15 Dec 1977 (Cr: Jake Williams.)

Then the beast seems to have laid low - because the next we hear is that on 30 Jan 1978, Mrs Helen Fitch saw the beast in a field 100yds at Bishop Kinkell, Conon Bridge. "Out of the corner of my eye, I caught a quick glance of a large dog-like animal carrying a black object in its mouth. I looked again and saw it resembled a big cat - similar to a small lioness or puma. I have lived in Central Africa and seen animals like that before. It was dark tan but its tail and back were a darker shade. It was very heavy in the shoulders and hindquarters and its tail curved upwards and curled at the tip. Its stomach also sagged. I was convinced it was a big cat. I reported it to the police and they came along and took casts of its prints."

Just over a mile from Mrs Fitch's house, farmer John Henderson, of Leanaig Farm, reported large paw-prints in snow in a field beside his garden. The prints were 3-4" long and clearly showed extended claws* (photo shows Mr Henderson and prints.) From Press & Journal (Aberdeen) 7 Feb 1978 (Cr: Jake Williams.)

*** As a last minute thought, we realise that cats walk with their claws retracted - a curious & puzzling detail!**

At the time of the above report, no depredations were noticed, but the next day a carcase of a sheep was being examined by the health center in Wick, but it was believed it was killed by a large cat. The report, in the Press & Journal is dated 8 Feb 1978, and curiously the previous day's sightings at Conon Bridge are said to be "about 10 days ago." (Cr: Jake Williams.) Lastly Jake confirms our supposition (FT25p34) that there were two places called Farr featuring in separate 'lion' sightings; one near Bettyhill, and one 10 miles south of Inverness.

Other 'lion' and 'puma' notes will have to wait until we have more room.

RJMR

Many of the books reviewed in these pages can be obtained from or through the following specialists in Fortean, occult, UFO, magical, health, comics, SF and alternative publications. Contact them for mail order or special requests.

Compendium Books:
234/240 High Street, Camden, London NW1
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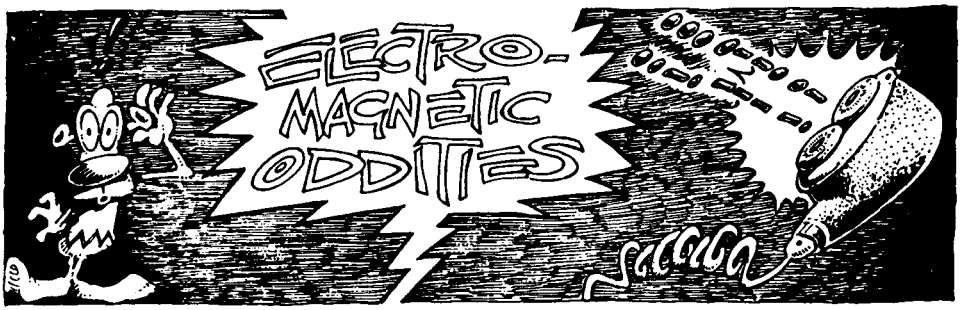


KORCHNOI'S COMPLAINT

As we type Viktor Korchnoi begins to play Anatoli Karpov, in the Philipines, for the title of world chess champion - and our minds go back to the defeat by Korchnoi of the Soviet Grand Master and former world champion Boris Spassky, in Belgrade, earlier this year. On 27 Dec 1977, Korchnoi, himself a Soviet Grand Master before his self-exile, made the astonishing claim that KGB agents were beaming microwaves "or other mysterious rays" at him to disturb his concentration, thereby causing him to lose 3 games in 10 days. He said he realised what was going on when he noticed Spassky leaving the stage after each move - to get out of range, Korchnoi said. In the match he won, Korchnoi said, Spassky made a mistake; significantly, while he was thinking on stage. Even more mysterious statements were made by British Grand Master Tony Miles who saw the tournament, claiming that Spassky was using hypnosis on Korchnoi, who "felt his knees go numb" whenever Spassky turned on the 'fluence. Petra Leeuwerik, Korchnoi's secretary, added that "Spassky himself may only have been a medium - someone else in the audience could have been involved...But Spassky looked as if he were drunk." She confirmed that Spassky had studied hypnosis since 1964 and had used it in world championships before. Also quoted was Dr Brian Fellows, of Portsmouth Polytechnic, who reminded us that it was well known that the Russians have had a long and serious programme studying hypnosis at a distance, and even hypnosis by telepathy. They all got together to beat Spassky's or whoever's chess-whammy - and Korchnoi went on to win the right to challenge the Soviet wonderboy Karpov in what is already shaping up to be an ideological grudge match. Daily Mail 28 Dec 1977, Guardian 13 Jan 1978, Sunday Times 26 Feb 1978 (Cr: Ion Will, Anon.)

US EMBASSY MOSCOW & MICROWAVES

The subject of mysterious beams also arises in what is fast becoming one of the great myths to come out of the Cold War, the microwave bombardment of the US Embassy in Moscow (I mean myth in the fullest sense of the word, not its limited common usage implying a lie or 'not true'). It transpires that the US State Dept knew of the bombardment as far back as the early 1960s, but it concealed the problem, even from the embassy staff, until 1975. The radiation level had been fairly low (5microwatts/sq.cm - which is about half the Soviet limit on exposure standards, and way below the US standard of 10 milliwatts/sq.cm) - but in 1975 the levels beamed at the embassy briefly shot up to 18 microwatts. At this time metal radiation screens were put up at the windows, and the staff alarmed at the danger and angry at the dept's deception, demanded explanations. The low-level bombardment continued until the very mysterious fire - on 26 Aug 1977 - damaged the upper 'secure' floors. In the weeks that followed intensity again increased, then dropped back to a low level.

From 1975, when the danger became known more openly rumours sprouted about abnormal incidence of cancer and other terrible afflictions among embassy staff earned the Moscow office an "official designation as an unhealthful post." (3) In early June this year a Marine sergeant began a $1.75 million damages suit against the US government on behalf of his 5yr-old son, whom, he claims, was born with severe defects caused by the bombardment while he and his family were posted to the embassy. (5) Conversely, despite the appearances that 3 former ambassadors died of cancer allegedly contracted during their Moscow duty, ambassador Walter J Stoessel, the man who ordered the metal radiation screens, has publicly denied he had to move to the West German embassy because the radiation aggravated his health. Is there any

health hazard? It's well known that exposure to microwaves can induce cataracts, ear and throat problems and even insomnia, (4) ...and it is known that the Soviet standards rest on the belief that continued low-level exposure can induce "behavioural changes, headaches, depressions, lowered sex drive and general non-specific debility." (8) Although there is no evidence at all yet of a cancer link, many experts acknowledge the added risk of blood disorders. Evidence that "1 in 29 adults" at the embassy had abnormally high counts of white blood cells (though without any apparent accompanying debility), came to light after the sudden radiation increases necessitated series of blood tests - but as these increases in lymphocytes continued after the screens were put up, others are not sure about blaming it on the radiation. The matter may be finally decided by a massive health study of all US personnel posted to the Moscow embassy over the last 25yrs - some 6000 persons - has been completed at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, now in the final stages of statistical analysis (2, 3 & 7). Sources: 1) Times-Herald (Newport News, Va) 10 Nov 1976; 2) Daliy Mail 5 Jan 1977; 3) Daily Press (Newport News, Va) 9 Nov 1977; 4) Houston Post (Tx) 27 March 1978; Observer 11 June 1978; 6) Sunday Times 9 July 1978; 7) Herald Tribune (NY) 14 July 1978; 8) Guardian 15 July 1978 (Cr: Ion Will, Gary Abbott, Kurt Lothmann, Paul Screeton.)

ELF POLLUTION

Something far more insidious than naughty gnomes or the Erisian Liberation front...there is a growing anti-microwave pollution lobby who see all kinds of physiological, psychological and even genetic hazards from low-frequency radiation. The main target in the USA are the high-tension power transmission cables whose numbers have increased dramatically, and largely until now unnoticed and unquestioned, in recent years. I refer the interested reader to a survey of the subject in Undercurrents 26 (Feb 1978) by Pat Coyne. Coyne says that British public apathy is matched only by the apparent unconcern of the Central Electricity Generating Board. Certainly this seemed the case when villagers from the Dorset village of Fishpond complained that ever since a special high-voltage power line was placed through the village, bees have become aggressive, in bad or misty weather birds mysteriously drop dead, TV sets blow up, and there is a persistent sizzling noise in their ears. Observer 15 Aug 1976). We'll give other reports some other time.

Before leaving the subject, I'd also like to refer to 2 articles in the Winter 1978 edition of Pursuit (see journal reviews for details). The first by John Ott, one of the top researchers on the topic, discusses the effects of ELF radiation from domestic fluorescent lighting on plants, animals and human eyes. Secondly Curt Sutherly and R Martin Wolf both suggest that modern life is filled with unseen but effective microwave radiations, from TVs, air-conditioning units and fridges, microwave ovens and fluorescent tubes etc...a problem even worse for those who live in mobile homes, aluminium boxes that reflect the ELF back and forth inside them. Can this fact play some part, they ask, in the significantly high proportion of UFO and Fortean events happening in or near mobile homes, or witnessed by those who live in such microwave traps?

WEATHER CONTROL, TESLA & RUSSIA

Andrew Michrowski, director of a group studying the application of Nikola Tesla's experiments to Canada's energy distribution problems, urged the Canadian Dept of Communications to analyse the mystery signals apparently beamed from Russia. Director of Operations, WW Scott, said that the signals had been severely curtailed before they could study them, but he could say that in the high-frequency range of 3-30 mHz, a signal came around the globe from the west about half an hour after a burst from the east; that they could have been harmonics of very low-frequency signals; and their brevity made the location of a low-frequency source very difficult. Dr Andrija Puharich, working with the Canadian group, said computation showed these signals were harmonics of the frequencies used by Tesla (6-60,000Hz), adding that one of the main components of the signals is in the 6-8Hz range and "happens to be the resonant frequency of the global sub-ionosphere, of radiowave travel-time through the earth" and very close to natural brain frequencies. The implications of long distance control of weather and human minds was not, I'm sure, fortuitous - especially in the light of the bombardment of the US embassy in Moscow. But the plot gets more frightening...

In Nov 1976, Associated Press, under the US freedom of information act, managed to see a partly-censored copy of a Defence Intelligence Agency report on Soviet microwave experiments. The report

suggested that microwave bombardment might lead to disoriented behaviour, nerve disorders and heart attacks. The report also describes an effect called "microwave hearing" in which "sounds, even words, appearing to originate intracranially, can be induced by signal modulation at very low power densities." It warned that in a few years these effects might be controlled "to disrupt behaviour patterns of military or diplomatic personnel or as an interrogation tool." Speculations are offered that body chemistry, brain neurophysiology, and blood-brain chemistry could all be influenced from a distance." Alas poor Korchnoi...

That well known organ of urban paranoia, National Enquirer, saw good material in this to yell at the top of its journalistic and sensational voice that the Russians could now cause diseases, control minds and kill by microwaves from secret hiding places or at extreme long range. Their hysteria reached almost gothic proportions, painting a vivid picture of the strategic use of astral projection, teleportation, telepathy and clairvoyance, and the classical seance phenomenon of partly materialised hands. All these effects, thay said, were described in another report from the DIA, declassified in May 1977.

Puharich speculated about the goal of weather control - much debated in recent years, along with earthquake induction, as a possible war weapon. Michrowski says his interest in all this dated from observations of astonishing luminous phenomena in the night sky over Ontario in March 1977 (We can't lay our hands on the files for this period at the moment) when, during a cold clear evening "the sky lit up with sheets of light traversing in a 360° pulsating pattern that lasted an hour." Michrowski is convinced this was no ordinary aurora but that it was a man-made phenomenon and part of Russia's continuing weather control experiments for agricultural and military purposes. Writing in the Guardian, Anthony Tucker calmly says the Russian harvests have not been all that good in recent years (because of drought etc) - and why over Ontario ? Ken Killich, a Canadian "science activist" whatever that is, says, with that beautifully simple reasoning that usually identifies a crank, it's all an error! They simply lost control and affected the whole world in a miscalculation that backfired on their own climate. Other papers went wild with this blaming the mysterious signals from Russia - we have many notes on them in the file - for every freak of weather, plus the recent flue and even 'Legionnaire's Disease' (see our coverage of recent scourges, FT24pp17-20,33-37). This last accusation came just a few days before the CDC announced they had found the bacterium involved. Perhaps that too is part of a plot of lies! South China Morning Post 29 Nov 1976, & 5 Feb 1977, Corsicana Daily Sun (Tx) 8 Nov 1977, Guardian 19 Dec 1977, National Inquirer 15 Nov 1977 & 7 May 1978... also a 'Tommorow's World' documentary, BBC TV 15 Dec 1977, which alleged that a wave of mystery illnesses in the Canadian town of Timmins was attributed to the fact that the town lay directly on the path of an ELF signal beam tracable to the Soviet town of Kiev. (Cr: Ion Will, Gary Abbott, Tom Adams...and X's RBB nos 14-18 (1977).

LONG DELAYED SIGNAL?

Finally, a datum that would have had Fort's ears pricking up and a quick reaching for his tiny squares of paper on which he wrote his notes in code. It seems that the liner QE2, which took over the radio call sign of the old 'Queen Mary' - GBTT: Golf Bravo Tango Tango - suddenly received, out of the blue, the call sign from the old ship, followed by a routine position announcement, a call that must have been broacast before the Queen Mary was pensioned off in 1967. Allan Holmes, First Radio Officer of the QE2, said: "It was uncanny...The radio procedure used was dropped years ago...it came from another age. I can't believe it was sent by a ghost...sometimes radio signals bounce off the moon and 'turn up' in Australia. This message could have bounced out into space more than 10 years ago and just zipped around until it found its way back to earth and we picked it up." Then if that's true, we are faced with the staggering coincidence that after 10 plus years the long delayed signal is picked up by a different ship using the original call code! Alas, no date for the incident is given, and if anyone can enlighten us, please do. Reveille 2 June 1978 (Cr: Dave Baldock.) RJMR

NEWS CLIPPINGS

If you see anything of interest to FT readers in your reading, professional or scientific journals, or local newspapers, please clip it out, or make a note of it, add a note of the source, date, and your name . . . then send it to us. It all helps and there are surprisingly few duplications. Some readers have offered to scan their regular reading matter, and if you would like to do the same, please contact us for suggested periodicals not being covered by others.

WEBS

The following letter from Mrs Joan Davie, of Myrtle Cottage, Goodleigh, Devon, appeared in the North Devon Journal-Herald for 10 Nov 1977: "Something lovely seemed to have happened in the countryside the other morning. There had been a heavy dew which did not disappear. My friend and I took the dogs for a walk and on coming down the lane, looking into the sun, she said 'Look at that field, it is covered in cobwebs.' This large field was covered in a gossamer sheet - all over - and the other fields too. Gossamer hung from the trees and bushes, hedges and gates, and there were thousands of tiny black spiders in the air and falling on us. I would like to know if this was an aerial hatching-out in the sunshine plus what is called 'light airs' brought down by the condensation in the air which fell as the dew? There was no wind at the time. The whole thing was beautiful and wonderful to behold, especially when the dew hung on to the cobwebs in the early morning. I would very much like to hear an answer from some expert." (Cr: P Christie.)

So would we! Web falls were recorded by Fort, who noted that spiders are sometimes quite absent. In this case though we note the phenomenon of localisation - the women didn't notice the webs or spiders in the air until they were right by or in the field - aided no doubt by the absence of wind. And another thing - it's all very well to talk about aerial hatchings, but how did many thousands of the little buggers get up there in the first place?

Our second account took place just over a month before the above. On the morning of 11 Oct 1977, the residents of San Francisco's Bay area were astonished to see vast quantities of cloud-like lumps of white webs floating down from the sky. Some of the clumps were up to 20ft long, and made up of "super-thick" strings with "big white wads on it". Pilots at San Jose airport said they encountered it at 4,000ft - and one man in nearby Pleasant Hill, said his tennis ball got so covered in the stuff it went "Whoop!" when he hit it. Up to 100 miles away people were looking up to see wads coming down (I couldn't resist that) - webs were wrapped around lampposts, clinging to facades of buildings and trees, and covering cars. One entomologist, at UCBerkeley, ventured his explanation. It was called ballooning - baby spiders crawl to the tip of a leaf, twig or blade of grass and spin a length of web, and when the wind catches this, off they go into the blue yonder. The huge web-clouds, says Lennie Vincent, are made up of millions of smaller ones. One retired entomologist, Stanley Bailey, said that web-flying was not unusual in central California, but he was quite surprised to see it on this scale on the Pacific coast. But there are a couple of other questions we'd like to have raised: long-time residents of the area said they had never seen the phenomenon before, at all; neither the reports nor the witnesses make any mention of the spiders themselves, and surely many millions would have been involved, yet not one was reported seen on these Mary Celeste cloud-ships; where did they come from and why were they not seen until, in sizeable numbers, bulk and distribution, they were suddenly noticed coming down; where did the spiders go, and did anybody notice the population explosion which led to these numbers and if they existed and bred what happened to the even larger number of spiders this horde should have led to? The Atlanta Constitution, The Daily Oklahoman, Dallas Times-Herald all 12 Oct 1977 (Cr: Lou Farish, Tom Adams, John Gore.)

NUTS & BEANS

Bristol chess expert, Mr A Wilson Osborne and his wife, were returning from the church in Westbury Park, on Sunday 13 March 1977. They were heading

for their home to Northumbria Drive from North View, and were outside the White Tree garage, when a dark cloud loomed over-head and it began to rain nuts. Mr Wilson Osborne said: "At first I thought it was a heavy hailstorm, but no, they were hazlenuts. They were peppering down on the road and bouncing off the cars. They were coming from the sky and coming from what I should estimate was a considerable height. I collected half a dozen or so to take home. I tried one of the nuts later. (It) was sweet, fresh and quite delicious." A few minutes after they got home, a neighbour called. Mr WO continues: "Our friend...said the most extraordinary thing had happened to him - he too had been showered with hazlenuts. It was a very blustery day...I've heard of frogs raining down from the sky - but I've never heard of a storm of hazlenuts." And neither have we, on reflection! Let the dopes who seek refuge in the 'whirlwind' explanation for enigmatic falls try to crack this nutty problem! From Bristol Evening Post 14 March 1977 (Cr: Ian Lawes.)

Well we might not know of another case of falling nuts, but there have been falls of beans. In Phenomena (p15) we quote from INFO Journal 8, the story of the West African beans that fell on a farm in NW Brazil - well because Lou Farish sent us a copy of the original clipping we are able to be more specific. On possibly the 1st of June 1971, according to the farmer, Salvador Targino, the beans fell suddenly out of the sky. A State official, who identified the beans as African, speculated about a storm scooping them up in Africa, carrying them for many miles across the ocean, to dump them in a small area in Brazil...but Targino says nothing about them falling during a storm. He did boil some up, however, and said they were too tough to eat. Chicago Tribune 4 June 1971. For bean-fall fans, we can add Raymond Bayless gives an account, in Fate May 1964 (pp27-29) of two cases he personally investigated - one near Blackstone, Virginia, on 2 Aug 1962; and the other in San Fernando, California, on 22 Jan 1964. This latter event is mentioned by Ivan Sanderson in his listing of falls (see Investigating the Unexplained, Prentice-Hall, 1972) which includes a fairly incomplete listing of similar falls of wheat, barley, meal, rice etc.

HAY & STRAW & A BIT MORE

Two old notes, untold, from July 1976...On the 22nd July 1976, for a few minutes,it rained straw outside the Barclay Arms, at Bosham, on the Hampshire coast. Mrs Valerie Cresswell, a witness, said: "It literally came down from a cloud that was passing over. Luckily one of the guests saw it as well because I thought I was going barmy. The Met Office at Southampton could only suggest "a sort of small-intensity tornado." It's true that some winds can lift things, but most of our falls have the characteristics,noticed by Fort,of selectivity (ie nothing else came down with the nuts, or the straw), and localisation. Note too that much testimony stresses a cloud as being more noticeable than any "sort of" whirlwind. This datum is from the Midhurst & Petworth Observer, Hants, 30 July 1976 (Cr: John Hitchens.)

"Localised mini-whirlwinds" were also blamed for hay-rains over Lincoln, coincidentally, on the same day as the Bosham event (above), 22 July 1976. In "late afternoon" straw from the sky festooned buildings, roads and telegraph pole over a wide area of the city stretching from the north to the south. At Burton, Mrs Ruth Grace, of Beechwood, said the straw was coming from the direction of Scampton and heading towards Lincoln - we make that a heading of SSE, following almost exactly the Burton-Lincoln road beneath. In Lincoln, Peter Twartz, of Lee Rd, said such quantities came down it looked "as if somebody has been going over in an aircraft and dropping bales of hay." A man in Yarborough Crescent said: "The sky was full of straw. People were walking around with armfuls of it." As the phenomenon continued over the city, drifting southward, a man in Hykham Road said there was so much of it, it was blowing about "like tumbleweed." At RAF Waddington, due south of Lincoln, the sergeant's mess was covered, and a spokesman said: "Our traffic control had a report from a light aircraft,west of Waddington, that haystacks were being lifted to 3-4000ft, but I imagine he meant large amounts of straw." Despite an RAF met man's suggestion about "localised mini-whirlwinds", it's clear this is pure supposition - and the light aircraft's pilot, it seems, didn't actually see haystacks being lifted, but supposed this on encountering masses of hay at his altitude. Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 23 July 1976 (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

Five days later and about 20 miles due north of Lincoln, light showers of straw rained into the Thompson St area of Scunthorpe. At 1pm on 17 July 1976, a witness in Thompson St, and another in the Scunthorpe Borough Parks Dept depot in Station Rd, both saw "small amounts" of straw fall to the ground. This was discovered during a personal investigation by Nigel Watson that same day. Was it a separate fall or the tail end of the Lincoln shower? And if so how did it stay up there for 5 days?

Now we come to a datum that makes even a blasé Fortean sit up. At about 8.30pm on 8 Aug 1977, Poole, Dorset, experienced a shower of rain which stopped, then continued as hay. And that's not all - in with the hay were blades of grass, and clumps of grass with roots and soil still attatched. John Kay, holidaying at Rockley Sands caravan site with his family, insists: "I'm not crazy. It did happen. Grass fell on me! There had been a shower of rain...Then suddenly it began to rain grass. There was a large rain-cloud about 1000ft above us and it was coming from that." The London Weather Center, asked for a quote, said: "We don't understand." Daily Express 9 Aug 1977. Our day-log reveals to us that something strange was going on in West Country skies that and the following day: a strange high-pitched whirring sound filled the air over Bath, not many miles away, where it was heard again the next day, followed by flocks of frenzied birds wheeling over the city. We'll give full details the next time we run our 'Sounds' column.

SHELLS

We are very pleased to include the following account of what might have been a very localised fall of shells, experienced by our Coventry reader, David Tame:

"The year must have been around 1964-1965 - as I was then only a child. It must have occurred in the summer, because a brief heavy storm interrupted my outdoor play - but the ground was quite dry when I later went out again. It is certain that nobody else would have noticed the shells, for 3 reasons:

"1) They were only something like - taking my own smaller (relative) size into account - 0.15 inches in size on average...perhaps 0.2".

"2) It was only by virtue of the fact that we had a large white concreted area in our garden, causing them to show up, that I first noticed them. It was impossible to see any, even on close inspection, in the grass.

"3) A child lives close to the ground. Every pebble was a recognised and remembered obstacle for toy cars to avoid. Every blade of grass was known, with its history of cover for toy soldiers. There is no way an adult would now give the ground so close an inspection - and even if he did (see something) he'd think nothing of it. But I knew they had not been there before the storm. 'They' were half minute shells of some kind...the other half appearing to me to be an entirely different kind of biological formation, some kind of dead, dark, dry and hard aquatic creature. I mean that two kinds of things had fallen - unfortunately I can't remember details of their appearance. At first I thought that the storm must have knocked them all out of the grass, but on checking, I found them all up the garden path, out by the road, and in elevated positions such as on top of outdoor tables, lying perhaps an inch (?) apart. I did collect some, realizing this phenomenon to be something strange, and kept them carefully for a few years, but, yes, the inevitable story; much to my disgust one day I found they had been thrown out. Such was their small size that within a few days after the storm those on the ground were no longer to be found, I suppose, swept away by broom and weather."

IS THERE A CHEMIST IN THE HOUSE?

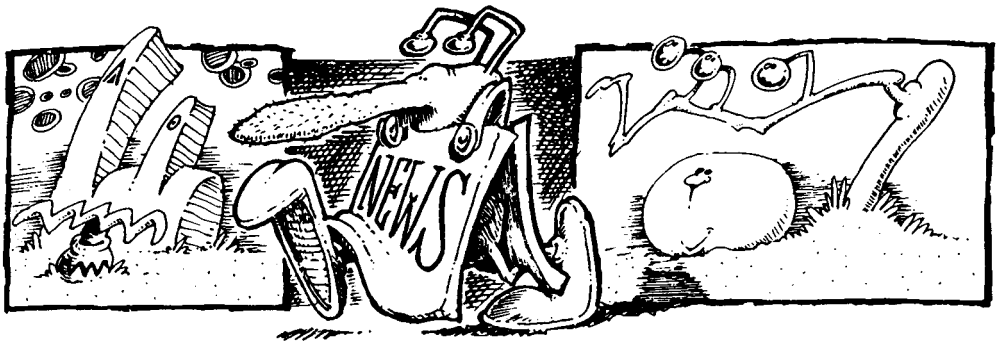
The small sample of mystery fibers that fell during a London storm, about 1964, have been examined under an electron microscope by Phil Ledger, and are not animal or vegetable matter. We need a chemical analysis - can anyone help? See FT25p13 for brief details of the fall - and write to me if you can help.

RJMR

Editorial Stuff/cont from p2...

OUT-OF-PRINT

We regret that once orders received have been met, we can no longer offer Hunt Emerson's FT poster. Backissues of FT are going out-of-print faster too! We printed 800 of FT24, and have none left - apologies to those who've missed out. We are increasing print-run to 1000, which includes stock & shop sales. We'll let you know if we reprint someday but until then you'll have to pay for a xerox-copy if you're desperate. Alas, copies of the second index (FT8-13,1975) have also run out.



THE GREAT CAPER & ILLUMINATUS!

News comes that Ken Campbell's two great Fortean plays are on the move again.

The Great Caper - a synthesis of the major Fortean themes and theses - is touring England and will be at the following venues:

York Arts Center: 1-5 August.
Norwich Arts Center: 11 & 12 Aug.
ICA, The Mall, London: 15-26 Aug.
Everyman Theatre, Liverpool: 28 Aug - 3 Sept.
Bristol Arts Center: 6-8 Sept.
Humberside Theatre, Hull: 19-23 Sept.

Illuminatus! - the arse-numbing 9hr marathon compilation from the infamous trilogy by Shea & Wilson - will run for a season at the Empty Space Theatre in Seattle, Washington. It will be performed in 3 parts between 20 Sept and 31 Dec.

Those imposters masquerading as scientists, and who abuse every principle of scientific honesty under the banner of 'scientific inquiry' into such subjects as telepathy, astrology, psychokinesis, psychic surgery etc, and who have shown their true colours by their public avowal to stamp out such 'patent rubbish and superstition', fail to realise that their very negative attitudes predispose their efforts to apparent self-confirmation. They know these things are 'impossible'; therefore any results must be seen in terms of deceit, error or myth. No one is asking them to compromise their fanatically-held views, but in the name of science let us not be fooled by them! It is significant that things like the Committee for the Investigation of Claims for the Paranormal are happening now, at this stage of the obvious failure of scientific-materialism - it is equivalent to the age when blind faith in another world-view hatched the horrors of the Inquisition.

The 'investigators' of this stamp seem to imagine that gifted people are in some unspoken way obliged to perform before them, and when faced with obviously hostile people, irrational tests in strange and artificial conditions, and 'fact' that logic and analysis are the opposite of the intuitive and irrational paranormal effects (precisely the opposing functions of right and left brain hemispheres), it's no wonder that most testees fail. There is always the unspoken threat of being 'exposed' - or worse yet, 'explained-away' - in a scientific paper, rightly or wrongly, to bolster some cowboy's reputation for being 'rational', 'sceptical' and 'scientific'. I never blamed Geller one bit for refusing to jump through hoops for the New Scientist committee, and others. Like many witnesses to paranormal phenomena, too, these people are intimidated and then sickened at such displays of arrogance and bigotry. Many,like Doc, will say they couldn't care less about the disbelievers - they themselves Know!

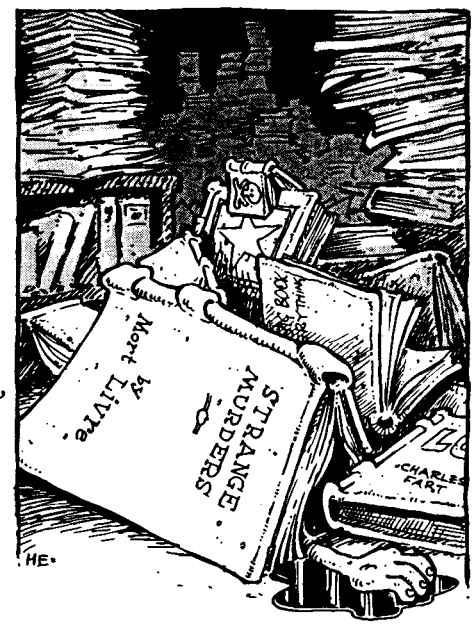
So it is with particular pleasure that I learn that following last year's Parascience conference in London, that several sensitives and paranormal talents, including Matthew Manning (whom, we might add, has had nothing but praise from the scientists he's worked with), will form an informal 'union' to grade the quality of labs, scientists and their 'hospitality', and to take legal and 'industrial' action in cases of abuse. All power to them!

As we go to press, that mighty Indonesian volcano that shook the world in 1883, is rumbling again...and a dilly of a particle shower from a recent solar-flare is about to arrive soon (some poor Soviet astronauts up there had better be sure they packed their lead knickers!). If we can get it together in time, next issue should have a listing of all the weather and quake etc superlatives of the last 2 years.

We were intrigued by a story in the New Straits Times 6 June 1978, that a Californian evangelist, John Todd, has convinced members of the fundamentalist First Baptist Church, of Zionsville, near Indianapolis, that they must prepare themselves for a war against witches out to conquer the world. The members are stockpiling food and weapons and buying property at 'Christian retreats'. Todd, a 'born-again Christian' said he had been born and raised in witchcraft, but had been 'saved' 6 years ago, aged 22. Now he says he can reveal that he once participated in a high decision-making council of witches called the Illuminati. He said the Illuminati had been planning to create a major crisis in 1980 through disruptive strikes of food and transport systems. The base of the Illuminati in the US, he said, is the Council on Foreign Relations, and the financial backing comes from David Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company. The farce be with us! (Cr: Jenny Cameron).

What then are we to make of the 261 page report published by the Pentagon, advising commanding officers and chaplains in the US armed forces on how to deal with the growing number of Satanists, witches and members of bizarre religious groups among the ranks? The advice to chaplins says the Satanists "believe in what the Christian church opposes" and that "it might be awkward to minister to them." When one dies, the report says, "the central grotto (Satanic HQ in San Francisco) should be contacted." Among the other pagan and Black Magic cultists, is mention of the fast growing Native American Church, a cult founded by Indians which is allowed the legal use of peyote. Daily Telegraph 22 May '78.

Mark Hall sent us a clipping of a truly Fortean way to die! A 70yr-old Long Island woman, Eleanor Barry, was suffocated in her bedroom, on 18 Dec '77, when one of the many "towers" of books, old newspapers and press-clippings fell, knocking others, pinning her to the floor and muffling her cries. Minneapolis Star (Minn) 21 Dec 1977...



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For the convenience of readers with overlapping interests, subs to *INFO Journal* (6 issues: $10.00/£5.00): and to *The Ley Hunter* (6 issues; UK & Europe: £2.70; Overseas Airmail: $8.00/£4.00) may be paid via FT.

Phenomena: A Book of Wonders (a superbly illustrated Fortean primer) by John Michell & RJM Rickard – UK & world-wide (surface): £2.40-$5.00; Worldwide (Air): $8.50. Includes post & packing.

Corliss Sourcebooks (compilations of rare Fortean data) can be ordered via FT. (Prices include postage). *Strange Universe (A), Strange Life (B), Strange Planet (E), Strange Phenomena (G), Strange Artifacts (M), Strange Minds (P)* – volumes in each series are denoted 'M2' etc:
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